Appointments of Ayuyu, Mesngon, Kiyoshi to CPA board OK'd. PAGE 2
Court grants limited receivership for three IPI creditors. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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House committee OKs Torres subpoena

30 companies that received BOOST money allegedly did not submit documents required by Finance

Torres

Yumul

Propst

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of a House of Representatives committee that is investigating the previous administration's grant program agreed yesterday to subpoena a former governor Ralph DLG Torres to appear before the committee.

Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the

See HOUSE on Page 4

Clear Management named receiver in Gray suit

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has appointed Clear Management Ltd. anew to serve as the limited receiver in Joshua Gray's suit against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and is again tasked with auctioning off the

See CLEAR on Page 4

Pentagon rushes defenses, advisers to Middle East

MARK RABAGO//ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pentagon spokesman Air Force Brig. Gen. Patrick Ryder speaks during a briefing at the Pentagon in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023.

As Israel's ground assault in Gaza looms

By TARA COPP and AAMER MADHANI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)— The Pentagon has sent military advisers, including a Marine Corps general versed in urban warfare, to Israel to aid in its war planning and is speeding multiple sophisticated air defense systems to the Middle East days ahead of an anticipated ground assault into Gaza.

One of the officers leading

See PENTAGON on Page 4

Senate passes resolution for 902 talks

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), extreme left, talks about the need to convene 902 Consultations between the CNMI and the U.S. administration shortly after the Senate passed during a session yesterday a Senate Joint Resolution that requests U.S. President Joseph Biden and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios to convene Covenant Section 902 Consultations.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate passed yesterday a joint resolution that asks U.S. President Joe Biden and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios to consult on a number of subjects, as provided in Section 902 of the Covenant that established the CNMI's relationship with the United States.

All six senators present at the session agreed to pass Senate Joint Resolution 23-05 that Senate president Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero recently introduced

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INSIDE

LOCAL
Lee Siyoung, an entertainer and actress in two Netflix original series, has generated over $500,000 in public relations exposure value about her recent visit to the Marianas.
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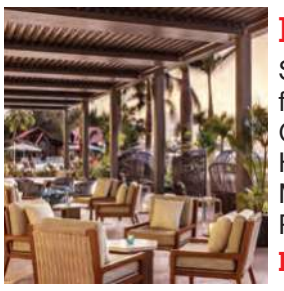

BUSINESS
Start your spooky festivities on Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Street Halloween Party at Mari Bar, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.
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WORLD
Hamas on Monday released two elderly Israeli women held hostage in Gaza.
PAGE 13

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Local

Appointments of Ayuyu, Mesngon, Kiyoshi to CPA board OK'd

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate confirmed yesterday the appointments of businessman Jose C. Ayuyu, former Rota senator Steve King Mesngon, and retired U.S. Army command major sergeant Dolores Pangelinan Kiyoshi to serve on the board of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All six senators present in yesterday's session voted "yes" to adopt the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations' report that recommends confirming the nominations of Ayuyu, Mesngon, and Kiyoshi.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios appointed Ayuyu to serve on the CPA board representing Saipan and the Northern Islands, while Mesngon will represent Rota, and Kiyoshi will represent Tinian and Aguiguan.

EAGI Committee vice chair Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said that Ayuyu's business acumen and his morality was best demonstrated in his assertion to promote competition, reinvestment in government infrastructure and, more importantly, to foster efficiency in the workplace and to eliminate duplication and wasteful use of public resources.

Manglona said the committee believes that Ayuyu will bring his expertise as an economist to move the CPA board.

He said the CPA board needs new or fresh ideas to resolve long-standing problems, which has led to the exorbitantly unaffordable costs of living in the Commonwealth.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Steve King Mesngon, left, and Dolores Pangelinan Kiyoshi pose for a photo after the Senate confirmed yesterday their appointment to serve in the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors.

Ayuyu was not at the Senate session yesterday as he is off-island.

Ayuyu is president and chief executive officer of McDonald's of Saipan and Guam. He has other business interests in real estate rentals of apartments and commercial buildings.

With respect to the appointment of Mesngon, Manglona said the nominee's experience of serving in the Legislature for many years would balance his duty as an important member and affords him the necessary familiarity to recommend legislative modifications to policies affecting all ports in the CNMI.

As for the appointment of Kiyoshi, the vice chairman said the committee has no doubt that the nominee will serve the CPA board with the same respect, duty, loyalty, self-service, integrity, and personal courage as she did in the U.S. Army.

WEDNESDAY
LUNCH BUFFET
TAN MARAKITA'S
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CHICKEN KATSU CURRY,
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SHANGHAI LUMPIA,
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CWA donation drive seeks women's clothes for work

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

To support women attempting to join the CNMI workforce, the CNMI Women's Affairs Office will hosting a drive to secure donations of clothes, accessories, and shoes for women who may need them when looking for work or going to work.

The CWAO is asking community members to show their support for these women, and donate to the Women's Work Wear drive, which will be ongoing until Nov. 17, 2023. The donated items will then be given to beneficiaries on Dec. 7, 2023.

The drive is accepting women's professional attire, apparel, footwear, fashion accessories that are new or used but in good condition. The donations may be dropped off at the Women's Affairs Office on Capital Hill.

Women's Affairs Office special assistant Barbara Sablan said the idea behind the drive is to empower women in the workplace through fashion.

"Our Women's Workwear Drive has a simple yet powerful goal—to inspire women to explore new fashion horizons and, in turn, increase their self-respect and self-importance. It's not about designer labels; it's about how you present yourself and your unique style.

"Our campaign is centered around three key values: encouragement, self-importance, and self-respect. We encourage women to dress for the job they want, not the job they currently have. As Audrey Hepburn once said, 'Elegance is the only beauty that never fades.' We stand by this belief and hope to inspire women to feel confident and elegant in their professional attire. We understand that work can be chaotic, which is why we promote professional camouflage—dressing the part to feel more in control. We strongly believe that all women deserve to look and feel professional in the workplace," she said.

Court grants limited receivership for three IPI creditors

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has granted the limited receivership request of three Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC creditors who have outstanding judgments against the casino investor.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted last week the requests for limited receivership made by creditors Joshua Gray, Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd., and USA Fanter Corp.

Lawyer Colin Thompson has since been tasked with preparing a proposed receivership order for the three creditors.

Back in September, IPI former employee Joshua Gray, through lawyers Aaron Halegua and Bruce Berline, filed a petition for an order to show cause to appoint a limited receiver to sell IPI's properties.

On May 31, 2023, the U.S. District Court entered judgment in favor of Gray against IPI in the amount of $5,686,182.20 plus pre-judgment interest, post-judgment interest, and attorneys' fees and costs.

On July 3, 2023, since IPI did not pay the judgment or post a bond, Gray applied for a writ of execution against certain assets belonging to IPI.

IPI did not file a timely opposition to that application.

On Aug. 16, 2023, the court issued a writ of execution in favor of Gray and the clerk issued a notice about the writ and informing IPI of its rights.

On Aug. 21, 2023, the U.S. Marshals Service filed a notice affirming that the writ was executed.

Meanwhile, Kan Pacific and USA Fanter, which also have outstanding judgments against IPI, previously requested that the court allow them to take part in Gray's request for limited receivership.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's unfinished Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan is shown in this file photo.

Mafnas asks court to quash bench warrant against her

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The defense for Nanami DLG Mafnas, the daughter of Senate President Edith Delon Guerrero (D-Saipan) who was arrested for assault, has begged the Superior Court to quash the bench warrant against her.

According to court documents, Mafnas failed to appear at the Superior Court last Oct. 18 for a status conference in her ongoing assault case. Because of this, a $500 bench warrant was issued for her.

However, the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Public Defender have since submitted an agreement to quash the bench warrant as it was determined that Mafnas did not intentionally miss her hearing. Instead, the stipulation states, Mafnas was not informed of the date of her hearing.

"The failure to appear was not willful as Ms. Mafnas did not get notice from defense counsel of the court date. She now begs the court to quash the bench warrant and reset this matter for a status conference hearing," said the stipulation, or agreement.

The parties have also submitted a proposed order to the court quashing the bench warrant. The court has yet to officially order to quash the warrant.

Mafnas allegedly assaulted Keisha Blaise back in March. Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan has already scheduled the bench trial for the case on Jan. 16, 2024, at 9am.

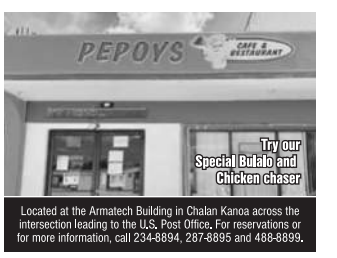
The scheduling order came after Mafnas, represented by assistant public defender Karie Comstock, chose to proceed to trial instead of pleading guilty.

Mafnas is facing charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace. If found guilty, she faces a maximum imprisonment sentence of one year, a $1,000 fine, or both for the assault charge.

The information filed in court states that Mafnas grabbed the victim by her braided hair, pulled her out of the vehicle, and hit her face and body on or about March 18, 2023, on Saipan.

The charge of disturbing the peace arose from the same incident. The court information states that Mafnas physically assaulted the victim, causing her to feel scared to leave home. Mafnas faces a maximum imprisonment sentence of six months and a $500 fine if found guilty.

The Superior Court issued an arrest warrant for Mafnas last April 6, with bail set at $5,000. Mafnas posted bail last April 7.



Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 234-8894, 287-8895 and 488-8899.

NANOWRIMO YOUNG WRITERS PROGRAM

Free Writer's Emergency Kit for first 10 to sign up

National Novel Writing Month starts in November. The first 10 local writers who sign up can get a free Writer's Emergency Kit at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

WHY?
We need to preserve our stories, our cultures, our experiences to share with family, friends, and posterity. Diverse voices help preserve historical authenticity. We miss the voices of our ancestors and have mostly colonial accounts of local history. We don't want that for our future generations. Every story matters—whether memoir / true or fiction based on the writer's imagination and experiences. And it's fun.

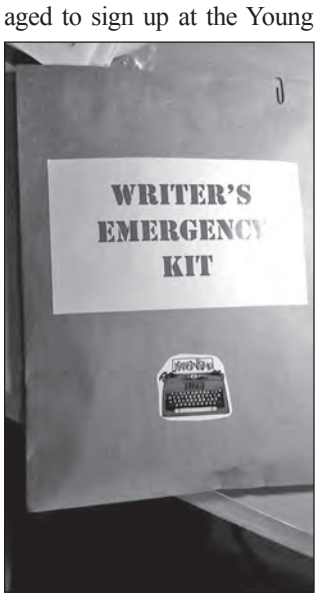
WHO?
NaNoWriMo is open to writers age 13 and older, although those under age 18 are encouraged to sign up at the Young Writers Program instead, so they can set a lower word count goal more suited to their writing age. But this is not just a student program—NaNoWriMo is especially for adult writers.

WHEN?
Sign up now and write in November. We hope to have write-ins locally. Get more information at www.marianaswritersmovement.org.

WHERE?
Sign up is done online at www.nanowrimo.org. If you need help, you can do this at the JKPL computer lab.

HOW?
It's free. You write in any language of your choice. You use your computer or other device or write by hand. It's a personal challenge to write a 50,000-word novel in 30 days. It's fun! Claim your free Writer's Emergency Kit at the JKPL by showing your log-in or by signing up there.

If you get stuck or need inspiration at any point before, during or after NaNoWriMo, you'll have the emergency kit to help! Join us. Sign up to write your novel in November. And follow along at the Marianas Writers Movement website. ***(PR)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Writer's Emergency Kit includes a journal with calendar, word junk journal envelope, photo prompt, pep talks, an extra sticker, pen, and a packet each of coffee, tea, and cocoa.

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For further information please contact Airen Lerio at (670) 235-3027.

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CLINIC
SCHEDULE
OCT 27
Adult Health Check
Update on personal medical history, blood pressure check, glucose check, resources & referrals
Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
OCT 4 12
Child Health Check
For children 0-17 years old. Measurements and growth, anticipatory guidance, resources & referrals
Nutrition Assistance Program , As Lito from 1:00PM- 4:30PM
Dan Dan Children's Park from 1:00PM - 4:30PM
OCT 6 14 25
Women's Health Check
For women who haven't seen a healthcare provider longer than 1 year, pap smears, breast exams, pre/post partum care, resources & referrals
Guma Hustisia, Susupe from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
(Day of Unity) Capitol Hill Softball Field from 11:00AM - 02:30PM
EVENT POSTPONED
San Roque Parish from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
OCTOBER
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Clear skies this week for Marianas

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The National Weather Service in Guam anticipates clear skies and relatively good weather for the Marianas throughout the week before seeing an increase in showers this weekend.

In its regional overview of weather patterns across the Pacific this week, NWS states that a fair-weather pattern is in place for the Marianas through this week, with moderate trades and spotty showers, while winds, seas, and surf will subside by midweek. However, a surface trough will bring more showers this weekend.

As for potential hazardous disturbances, NWS said there are currently no suspect areas for significant tropical development across tits area of responsibility.

"Tropical cyclone development is not expected through the weekend. However, there are a number of weak circulations within the near-equatorial trough across Micronesia that will be the focus of locally heavy showers and thunderstorms. None of these circulations is favored for development. Regardless, we'll keep a close watch on the activity across Micronesia while the trough remains in place this week," the overview released yesterday stated.

Meanwhile, in Yap and Palau, a near-equatorial trough will be in place through the weekend, with the trough axis near or over either Yap or Palau.

"Within the axis, expect light and variable winds, while northeast to east winds will be to the north, and northwest to west winds to the south. A weak circulation within the NET will drift westward near Yap and Palau and could sit nearly stationary later this week. This will maintain a wetter pattern for both locations mid- to late week," said the overview.

Farther east, the NET stretches over Chuuk, Pohnpei, near Kosrae and south of Majuro.

"Showery trades are found at Majuro while fair weather exists this evening across Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Chuuk. Light south to southwest winds will persist at Pohnpei and Chuuk through midweek, and then trades near the Marshalls will build westward as the NET shifts westward. The NET will bring periods of showers and a few thunderstorms from time to time this week across all locations," the overview said.

PENTAGON

From page 1

the assistance is Marine Corps Lt. Gen. James Glynn, who previously helped lead special operations forces against the Islamic State and served in Fallujah, Iraq, during some of the most heated urban combat there, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to discuss Glynn's role and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Glynn will also be advising on how to mitigate civilian casualties in urban warfare, the official said.

Israel is preparing a large-scale ground operation in an environment in which Hamas militants have had years to prepare tunnel networks and set traps throughout northern Gaza's dense urban blocks. Glynn and the other military officers who are advising Israel "have experience that is appropriate to the sorts of operations that Israel is conducting," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said Monday. The advisers will not be engaged in the fighting, the unidentified U.S. official said.

The military team is one of many fast-moving pieces the Pentagon is getting in place to try and prevent the already intense conflict between Israel and Hamas from becoming a wider war. It also is trying to protect U.S. personnel, who in the last few days have come under repeated attacks that the Pentagon has said were likely endorsed by Iran.

Kirby said Iran was "in some cases actively facilitating these attacks and spurring on others who may want to exploit the conflict for their own good, or for that of Iran. We know that Iran's goal is to maintain some level of deniability here. But we're not going to allow them to do that."

The White House said President Joe Biden spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday to update him on "U.S. support for Israel and ongoing efforts at regional deterrence, to include new U.S. military deployments."

On Monday, the U.S. military garrison at an-Tanf, Syria, came under attack again, this time by two drones. The drones were shot down and no injuries were reported. It was the latest episode of more than a half-dozen times in the last week that U.S. military locations in the Middle East had come under rocket or drone attack since a deadly blast at a Gaza hospital.

Last Thursday the destroyer USS Carney shot down four land-attack cruise missiles launched from Yemen that the Pentagon has said were potentially headed toward Israel.

In response, over the weekend the Pentagon announced it was sending multiple Patriot missile defense system battalions and a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system to the Middle East, as well as repositioning the Eisenhower strike group to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. The ship had previously been en route to the Eastern Mediterranean.

The shift means that the Navy will have a carrier strike group off the shore of Israel—the Ford carrier strike group—and another, the Eisenhower, potentially maneuvered to defend U.S. forces and Israel from the Red Sea or the Gulf of Oman.

"We're going to continue to do what we need to do to protect and safeguard our forces and take all necessary measures," Ryder said. "No one wants to see a wider regional conflict. But we will not hesitate to protect our forces."

HOUSE

From page 1

Special Committee on Federal Assistance & Disaster-relating Funding, said the subpoenas to compel the appearance of Torres and others will be issued at a later date.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), who is the vice chair of the special committee, also disclosed during their meeting that there are 30 some companies that received awards from the Building Optimism, Opportunity, and Stability Together Program that did not submit the required documents to the Department of Finance.

"I hope they are watching and listening in that we will be coming after you if you did not turn in those documents that were requested by the Department of Finance. Come hell or high water, we will find it and we will get it," Propst said.

He reminded the BOOST recipients that when they signed the notice of award, they agreed to the terms and conditions of the grant.

"So, we're certainly not going to take anything lightly," Propst added.

It was Rep. Vicente C. Camacho (D-Saipan) who moved to authorize Yumul to issue subpoenas to Torres, former Finance secretary David DLG. Atalig, former chief of staff William M. Castro, former Department of Commerce Economic Development director Jesus Taisague, and contractors Robert Travilla, Salina Sapp, and Shayne Villanueva.

All six members of the special committee present at the meeting voted "yes."

Reps. Vincent S. Aldan (Ind-Saipan), Angelo A. Camacho (Ind-Saipan), and Diego Vincent F. Camacho (D-Saipan) were absent, but excused from the meeting.

Yumul stated at the start of the meeting that they did send 1309 letters to the Zoning business license division, Department of Finance, and Department of Commerce. According to the Commonwealth Code, 1309 letter refers to the acquisition of information by other lawful means.

Yumul said the request for documents is for 10 days, which means there would be updates this Thursday.

He said, however, the Department of Commerce already submitted the required documents that they requested.

The chairman said Bank of Saipan has requested for an extension to submit the requested documents as their legal counsel, Matthew Gregory, is off-island.

Yumul said he has no objection to granting the extension so that their legal counsel can review the documents that they have requested.

He said during his absence, Propst had received communication from the Department of Finance. Propst said he did have some discussions with Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita and an assistant attorney general as to what they (committee) are looking for.

Propst said those documents will be coming as they are expecting them through the notice of awards that went out to every single BOOST recipient that was required to sign.

Propst said that, based on their conversation, there are 30 some businesses that did not respond at all.

In lieu of the list of recipients that Bank of Saipan provided them, they can get all the information from the Division of Revenue and Tax and their reporting on their Gross Revenue Tax, said Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan). He said some of the beneficiary businesses "just opened during this period, while some of which were existing businesses."

Yumul said the Zoning Office did receive a request, but has not responded and the expiration date would be this Thursday.

Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) said the list of individuals to be served with subpoenas includes government officials and those who are responsible for the marketing the BOOST program.

"It's a start for us, but it's a great start," said Flores, adding that she is aware that there are some people that will agree with her that this inquiry and process is long overdue. She assured the public that each and every one of them in the committee will not rest until they look into how every penny of the BOOST funds were spent.

The BOOST Program was a project of the previous Office of the Governor and the Department of Finance that aimed to provide financial assistance to CNMI businesses and non-profit organizations.

CLEAR

From page 1

casino investor's properties.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued yesterday an order appointing Clear Management as the limited receiver for the sale of IPI properties to satisfy an over $5.6-million judgment granted in favor of Gray.

"The court appoints Clear, acting by and through its principal, Timothy Shepherd, as the limited receiver…for the purpose of identifying, securing, and selling IPI's personal property. Clear shall possess all the powers of a federal equity receiver and is vested with the power and authority…to perform all acts deemed necessary or prudent to comply with this order," said Manglona.

Gray is a former IPI employee who sued the casino investor over discrimination claims. He was granted a writ of execution back in August that allows him to seize and sell IPI properties to satisfy his $5,686,182 judgment. However, he asked the court last month to grant him a limited receivership instead.

According to Manglona, within 14 days of the court order, Clear Management is authorized to inspect and locate all of IPI's properties, wherever located, to create an inventory of all specific items in IPI's possession that it believes are subject to the writ and that it intends to sell.

The inventory list will be filed with the court and IPI will be given seven days to object. If IPI does not object within that period, or the court overrules IPI's objection, then Clear Management shall be permitted to auction the items and IPI will be precluded from objecting later.

Manglona stated that the limited receiver shall have the option to sell any of IPI's personal property itself or to contract with third-parties or specialists to sell any of IPI's personal property, such as the liquor or art belonging to IPI, without further approval by the court.

Clear Management will also be paid an 18% commission on the sale of IPI properties, and the limited receiver shall decide how that sum is split with any contractors.

Manglona also approved Gray's request to be relieved as receiver.

Last May, Manglona ruled in favor of Gray in his discrimination suit against IPI and awarded him compensatory damages of $121,545.55 in back pay, $300,000 in lost future earnings, and $1 million in emotional distress damages.

Manglona also granted Gray punitive damages at a ratio of 3:1 of punitive damages to compensatory damages, totaling $4,264,636.65.

Gray initially requested $3,939,768 in compensatory damages with a ratio of 7:1 for punitive damages, which amount to $31,518,144 in total damages.

SENATE

From page 1

to set the ball rolling on the Covenant Consultations.

The resolution requests both U.S. and CNMI leaders to convene the 902 Consultations to discuss, negotiate, and address immigration and workforce issues, economic crisis, military expansion, transportation, and other pertinent critical issues affected the CNMI.

Article 9, Section 902 of the Covenant provides a mechanism for the CNMI and the U.S. to meet and discuss challenging issues affecting their relationship.

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said he appreciates that DeLeon Guerrero sponsored the resolution as it is time to bring issues that concern both the United States and the CNMI to the forefront.

As the heading of the resolution itself states, Hofschneider said, it speaks on a lot of issues in the CNMI.

Although the CNMI does have a representative—a non-voting delegate in the U.S. Congress—there is a segment in the CNMI Constitution, the Covenant 902, that is often put aside.

"We need to convene this more than ever now since…everybody knows in this chamber and everybody knows in the CNMI what's going on," the senator said.

Hofschneider said that for every time they try to stabilize the livelihood here, there's a lot of contradiction or hindrance in the CNMI's ability to do just that.

Netflix series actress Lee Siyoung promotes Marianas

MVA

Actress Lee Siyoung, right, enjoys an ATV tour with friends on Saipan in September 2023.

Lee Siyoung, an entertainer and actress in two Netflix original series, has generated over $500,000 in public relations exposure value about her recent visit to the Marianas.

Lee visited Saipan and Rota on Sept. 15-21, 2023, with family and friends to highlight various activities suitable for family and friend trips. After sharing her experience in 15 posts on her official Instagram account and generating various online media coverage, as of Oct. 17 the estimated PR exposure value of the coverage is $520,000 and growing.

Lee plays a lead character in the Netflix original fantasy series *Sweet Home*, which premiered in December 2020. *Sweet Home* was the first South Korean series to enter Netflix's Top 10 in the United States, reaching as high as third. On Aug. 8, 2023, she also co-starred in the Netflick's horror series *Zombieverse*. Lee was nominated for Best Actress in 2021 at both the Asian Academy Creative Awards and the Asia Contents Awards.

"Saipan was such a perfect place to relax with my family and expect some adventure in nature," Lee said, who expressed special delight in her hike to Forbidden Island beach. "Saipan's natural attractions were inspiring on a different level. I would love to come back to Saipan and focus on exploring all the trekking routes on the island."

Lee experienced a whirlwind of activities, including visits to the award-winning Managaha for board and beach snorkeling, SeaWalking and parasailing. She also took an ATV tour, visited popular diving spot Grotto, sampled standup paddling, had a marine animal encounter with SeaTouch, toured the historic and scenic sites of Marpi, and took a day tour of Rota.

"Heartbreakingly pristine nature and more stars than Saipan," Lee said about Rota. "I still can't get over how beautiful it was. It is the best to swim in the ocean with no one around!"

Her visit was arranged by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

"As an established actress who often portrays strong, athletic characters, Lee Siyoung is a perfect person to showcase the many outdoor activities available in the Marianas," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We are grateful to have the opportunity to partner with her on this promotion, and of course, we would love to have her again in our islands."

Lee has over 3.4 million followers on her Instagram account. Her visit was covered by OSEN, Sports Chosun, Sports Korea, Herald POP, News 1, and other media outlets. Lee lodged at Saipan World Resort and Aqua Resort Club Saipan during her visit. ***(MVA)***

MVA

Actress Lee Siyoung enjoys Micro Beach with her son last September 2023.

CUC schedules water interruption in 3 areas

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a scheduled water service interruption this Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023, for customers in the areas of Upper Dandan, Naftan, and Obyan.

The purpose of the scheduled water service interruption is to allow CUC Water Operator to repair two main service lateral leaks on Magicienne Bay Avenue and Bucnas Noches Street in the Upper Dandan Homestead area.

To ensure the safety of CUC's crew, portions of the road in Magicienne Bay Avenue and Buenas Noches Street will be closed. Motorists are advised to reduce speeds and exercise caution while driving in the area or consider taking alternate routes.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as it continues to provide reliable services to its customers.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (http://www.facebook.com.CommonwealthUtalities@orporation/). ***(CUC)***

CUC

Map of Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s scheduled water service interruption this Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

ADDENDUM NO. 1
October 23, 2023

DPW23-ITB No. 42400001; Dismantling of Imperial Pacific International (IPI) Tower Crane No.5 and 6

1. General: The following revisions, additions, corrections, and/or clarifications to the specifications and drawings shall apply to the work affected thereby. Careful note of this Addendum shall be taken by the bidder/contractor, and all trades affected shall be fully advised of the information contained herein. In the event of a conflict between drawings, specifications and this Addendum, the contents of this Addendum shall govern. A" further conflicts in the work resulting from, or caused by, the contents of this Addendum must be brought to the attention of the Contracting Officer for resolution. Failure to acknowledge this bid Addendum in accordance with instructions may subject your Proposal to rejection on the affected item(s)/service(s).

2. The Government intent to use Procurement Regulation as Stated below
This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 ed. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with §70-30.3-230 (Emergency Procurement) of the regulations.

3. Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW23-ITB No. 42400001."** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two (2) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement Services Located at Building 12552 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan no later than 10:00 am, **November 08 2023 is changed to read 10:00 a. m., local time November 15, 2023.**

All other requirements of the Invitation to Bid the project package shall remain as stated.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
RFP NO.: DPW24-RFP No.: 42400002

SUBMISSION DATE: November 27, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Project Management Services for Route 302 (Naftan Road) Improvement."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after October 25, 2023 at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on November 13, 2023, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on November 17, 2023 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

PUBLIC HEARING
ANNOUNCEMENT

***for* Grid Modernization**

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (OGA) (1 CMC § Section 9901 est. Seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) will hold a public hearing on **Friday, October 27, 2023**, at **4:30 PM** in the **CUC Conference Room No. 17** on the **third floor** of the **Joeten Dandan Building** for a public presentation on CUC's implementation for grid modernization. Projects under the plan are funded under the *U.S. Department of Energy (DOE): Preventing Outage and Enhancing in the Resilience of the Electric Grid.*

The purpose of the public hearing is to inform the general public of CUC's proposed solution for energy reliability and energy accessibility which will be implemented through CUC's grid modernization implementation plan. The demand for high quality power delivery services is part of CUC's corporate mission and CUC acknowledges the need to strive for continual improvement in the delivery of power services.

Interested parties may submit comments for this project to **Adrian Reyes, Project Manager,** at **adrian.reyes@cucgov.org**, with the subject line titled, **"Comments for Public Hearing: Grid Modernization."** The deadline to submit comments is by **4:30 PM** on **Friday, November 3, 2023**.

Third Floor,
Joeten Dandan Building
P.O. Box 501220
Saipan, MP 96950

T: (670) 664-4282
www.cucgov.org

NMC info session set on Oct. 25

NMC

The next Northern Marianas College info session will be held on Oct. 25 at the Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, with doors opening at 5:30pm for registration.

Northern Marianas College is reminding all community members looking to further their education to attend NMC's free information session on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023, which will focus on the upcoming spring 2024 semester.

The info session will be held at the Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, with doors opening at 5:30pm for registration. The session will cover topics that include financial aid options and the admissions process.

Participants of the info session will qualify to have their application and placement test fees waived for NMC's spring 2024 semester—a savings of about $75.

Incoming students who have attended a Start Smart Seminar, Cash for College, or Climb Higher Seminar in the past year can avail of having their application and placement test fees waived for the spring 2024 semester.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a Bachelor of Science in Education (Concentration in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Rehabilitation and Human Services, or Special Education), Bachelor of Science in Business Management (Concentration in Accounting or without Concentration); Associate of Arts in Business, Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration (Emphasis in Accounting, Business Management, or Computer Applications), Associate of Applied Science in Hospitality Management, Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts (Emphasis in Education, Health and Physical Education, Pre-Engineering, Social Work, or without Emphasis), Associate of Science in Nursing, Associate of Science in Agriculture, Associate of Science in Natural Resource Management, Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice, and Associate of Science in Fire Science Technology. The certificate programs at NMC include Basic Law Enforcement, Business Management, Computer Applications, Early Childhood Education, Fire Science Technology, Hospitality Operations, Nursing Assistant, and Small Business Management.

NMC's Spring 2024 semester will begin on Jan. 16, 2024. A list of the classes that are offered can be found at www.marianas.edu. For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6769/70/71/72 or email oar@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

All set for JKPL Trunk or Treat on Oct. 31

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Since 2012, thousands of children and adults have enjoyed hours of fun dressing up in spooktacular costumes and trick-or-treating in the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library parking lot.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's 10th Annual Community Halloween Trunk-or-Treat event is all set on Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023, from 3:30pm to 6:30pm at the JKPL parking lot in Susupe.

Library hours on Oct. 31 will be from 10am to 1pm. The library will be closing early to allow the staff and community partners to prepare the parking lot for the event. The library will be closing its parking lot on Friday, Oct. 27.

Held every year, this popular free public event helps to promote and strengthen community partnership and engagement, foster family bonding, and provide families with an alternative activity to trick-or-treating door-to-door.

Since 2012, thousands of children and adults have enjoyed hours of fun dressing up in spooktacular costumes and trick-or-treating in the JKPL parking lot. This year, JKPL will have monetary prizes for the Best Family Halloween Costume Contest. Registration is required to participate in the costume contest.

JKPL will also have the return of the People's Choice Award for Best Community Trunk. Which spooky trunk will be voted this year's People's Choice?

Interested community partners and/or sponsors are invited to register a trunk or sponsor this year's event by emailing syslib.jkpl@gmail.com, calling the library at (670)235-7318/7322, or picking up a registration and/or sponsorship form at JKPL. ***(PR)***

GCC spring registration opens Oct. 30

The Guam Community College spring semester 2024 registration will begin on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023. The spring '24 class schedule will also be available at that time.

New and returning students can register online at GuamCC.edu/Apply or in person at the Administration Building 2000, from Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm. Academic advisors, financial aid personnel, and admissions staff will be available to assist students in Building 2000. The last day to register for classes is Friday, Jan. 5, 2024.

Important email addresses and phone numbers:

■ Admissions, Registration and Academic Advisement

gcc.regsitrar@guamcc.edu

❖ 671-735-5531

❖ Financial Aid

❖ financialaid@guamcc.edu

❖ 671-735-5543

■ Health Services Centergcc.healthcenter@guamcc.edu

❖ 671-735-5586

For clearance requirements log on to guamcc.edu/HealthCenter

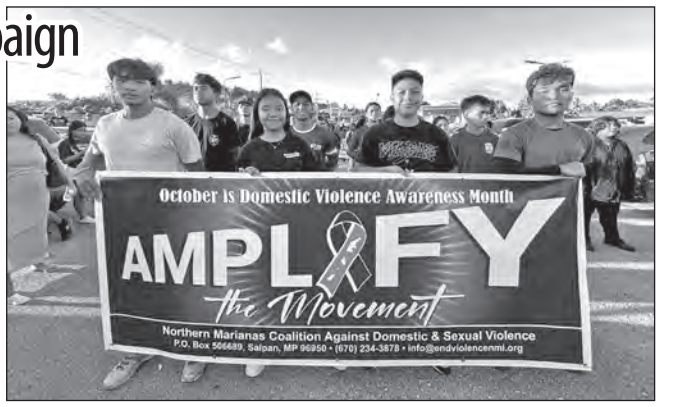
Important spring 2024 dates:

■ Last day of registration: 5pm, Friday, Jan. 5, 2024

■ First day of the semester: Wednesday. Jan. 10, 2024

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, application will be available in December 2023 online. The application is currently undergoing some mandatory revisions. The application is open and free to everyone. Use GCC's school code #015361 when prompted to be sure the GCC financial aid office receives your application. ***(GCC)***

KHS, MHS, SSHS cadets join forces in Domestic Awareness Rock and Roll campaign


October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month
AMPLIFY
the Movement
Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950 • (670) 234-3878 • info@endviolencenmi.org

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cadets going on a march singing chants around the village during last Oct. 19 Domestic Awarenes Rock and Roll campaign.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Kagman High School Ayuyu Battalion takes part on the roadside wave during last Oct. 19's Domestic Awarenes Rock and Roll campaign.

The Kagman High School Ayuyu Battalion teamed up with the cadets of Marianas High School and Saipan Southern High School as well as community volunteers for a memorable event last Oct. 19 at San Vicente Children's Park.

The event, which promoted domestic violence awareness through the Domestic Awareness Rock and Roll campaign, had the park come alive as cadets from all three schools gathered, displaying colorful banners, and engaging with the community to garner support for this vital cause. Their enthusiasm was infectious, persuading passersby to join the effort and make a positive impact.

The spirited cadets, still waving their vibrant banners, embarked on a march around the area, chanting uplifting messages. Their unity and determination were both a sight to behold and a testament to the power of individuals coming together for a common purpose.

The Domestic Awareness Rock and Roll campaign was not just a demonstration of solidarity among these cadet units but a powerful reminder of the importance of community involvement and support for those affected by domestic challenges. It was a day of inspiration, showcasing the potential for positive change when our youth lead the way. The event was a major success and inspiration to the community.

C/CPT Jayden Pangelinan from KHS said, "The event was such a great way of showing how strong our community is. It reflected on how much support and love we all have for each other. I believe that seeing our people come together for such a sensitive cause is just heartwarming. I am so thankful I got to be a part of the greater cause."

C/CPT Travannie Atalig, also from KHS, said, "The event was great! It was nice to see our community come and support a noble cause which was to support the victims of domestic abuse. As we got together, it was amazing to see all the different citizens support one another through our differences. This is a great example of community support from all the JROTC cadets." ***(PR)***

USCG strengthens PH relationship during landmark visit to Tacloban

TACLOBAN, Philippines—In a historic first, the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143) visited partners in Tacloban, Philippines, from Oct. 19 to 23, 2023, and the crew conducted engagements marking a significant milestone in the enduring relationship between the United States and the Philippines.

This visit of several days coincided with the observance of the Battle of Leyte Gulf, a crucial event in World War II history where U.S. Coast Guardsmen were a significant part of the U.S. forces and among the first to hit the beaches as the U.S. sought to retake the Philippines.

"We are deeply honored to be part of this observance and to strengthen the bond between the United States and the Philippines," said Lt. Patrick Dreiss, commanding officer of the USCGC *Frederick Hatch*. "It is a privilege to bring a U.S. Coast Guard fast response cutter to the Philippines for the first time and to visit the historic city of Tacloban. My crew was excited to collaborate with the Philippine Coast Guard to deepen our connections with our fellow seagoing Service and explore this unique city and island."

An advance team from U.S. Coast Guard District 14 and U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam held planning meetings in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy to prepare for this visit and the Battle of Leyte Gulf observance. Discussions revolved around mutual capabilities, training opportunities, and community engagement, part of the Coast Guard's Operation Blue Pacific mission.

USCG

The crew of U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143) visit the McArthur Park in Palo on Oct. 20 as part of the observance of the Battle of Leyte Gulf, a crucial event in World War II history.

While in Tacloban, the crew, with support from the Maritime Security Response Team West, hosted a subject matter expert exchange on maritime law enforcement with Philippine Coast Guard colleagues, observed the 79th Leyte Gulf Landing Anniversary, hosted local school children and government officials, held working meetings, and experienced the culture of the Eastern Visayas region of the Philippines.

"The expanded capabilities of the fast response cutter represent more than just advanced technology; they symbolize the bridge of cooperation and goodwill between nations. The FRCs and their dedicated crews regularly play a pivotal role in international diplomacy. These vessels, along with their highly trained and professional crews, are ambassadors of peace and collaboration," said Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam. "They foster understanding and trust across borders, making the seas safer not only for our own nations but for all nations that rely on the freedom of navigation and maritime security."

USCG

Lt. Patrick Dreiss, commanding officer of USCGC *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143), gives a tour of the ship to colleagues from the Philippine Coast Guard while at the pier in Tacloban, Philippines, on Oct. 20, 2023.

This visit is part of the USCGC *Frederick Hatch*'s regularly scheduled expeditionary patrol as part of the ongoing Operation Blue Pacific. It follows previous interactions between the U.S. Coast Guard and the Philippine Coast Guard, including the recent arrival of the USCGC *Stratton* (WMSL 752) in Manila for professional exchanges and joint operations.

The visit of Pacific Area commander Vice Adm. Andrew Tiongson in April to discuss shared challenges and opportunities for partnership further exemplifies the U.S. Coast Guard's commitment to the region. The Service's role as a federal law enforcement agency and an armed forces branch uniquely positions the agency's teams to conduct security cooperation operations supporting combatant commanders, upholding governance, and ensuring regional stability. Through Operation Blue Pacific, an overarching multi-mission Coast Guard endeavor, the Service seeks to promote security, safety, sovereignty, and economic prosperity in Oceania while strengthening relationships between partner nations in the Pacific.

The Tacloban visit underscores the shared strategic efforts toward a stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific and aligns with the Pacific Area Commander's goals to prepare a ready force, generate combined effects, and uphold governance. It also supports U.S. Coast Guard District 14 and U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam's commitment to be a trusted partner in Oceania and deliver operational excellence. ***(USCG)***

USCG

Lt. J.G. Mary Sims, executive officer of USCGC *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143), takes a photo with children at Bliss Elementary School in Tacloban, Philippines, on Oct. 21, 2023.

USCG

Colleagues from the Philippine Coast Guard prepare to receive the crew of the USCGC *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143) at the pier in Tacloban, Philippines, on Oct. 19, 2023.

USCG

Members of USCGC *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143) stand for a photo with colleagues from the Philippine Coast Guard before departing from the pier in Tacloban, Philippines, on Oct. 23, 2023.

USCG

Lt. Patrick Dreiss, commanding officer of USCGC *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143), exchanges gifts with the Mayor of Tacloban City, Alfred Romualdez, in Tacloban, Philippines, on Oct. 20, 2023.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Biden should balance support for Israel with pushing for peace in a volatile region

The Oct. 7 attack on Israelis by Hamas militants was an unspeakable act of terrorism and Israel has every right to use military force to prevent future such atrocities. But in doing so it must stay true to its values by doing everything possible to minimize the suffering of innocent Palestinian residents of Gaza.

That seemed to be President Joe Biden's message for Israelis when he spoke Wednesday in Tel Aviv, reminding his hosts that "the vast majority of Palestinians are not Hamas. Hamas does not represent the Palestinian people."

Biden expressed solidarity with the Israeli people and promised that he would ask Congress for "an unprecedented support package for Israel's defense." He adroitly combined that statement of support with a gentle but unmistakable plea for Israel to achieve "clarity about the objectives and an honest assessment about whether the path you're on will achieve those objectives." This is the appropriate role for the U.S. to play at this stage.

The president recalled that after 9/11: "We were enraged in the United States. While we sought justice and got justice, we also made mistakes."

Israel should take that wise counsel to heart as it continues its campaign to destroy Hamas, which might soon involve an invasion of Gaza. Israeli air bombardment of the congested territory has killed at least 3,400 people, according to Gaza health authorities. That Israel does not target civilians is small comfort for the families of those killed or wounded.

Nor can civilians be sure that relocating will spare them from harm. The New York Times reported this week that Palestinians who heeded an Israeli order to evacuate portions of the Gaza Strip and head south are enduring airstrikes even after they have moved.

Biden also announced that Israel had agreed to allow humanitarian assistance to enter Gaza from Egypt. It's appalling that trucks laden with food and supplies have been stalled in Egypt near the Gaza border. He also promised an additional $100 million in humanitarian assistance for Gaza and the West Bank.

The president had hoped on this visit to the Middle East to meet in Jordan with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Sisi. But the meeting was canceled after Abbas withdrew following an explosion at a hospital in Gaza on Tuesday. Biden said that the U.S. believes that the explosion was the result of "an errant rocket fired by a terrorist group in Gaza," as Israel has insisted.

Finally, it's important that Biden in his remarks Wednesday expressed support for the elusive two-state solution in which Israel would peacefully coexist with a Palestinian state. He indicated that his administration would continue to "keep working for Israel's greater integration with its neighbors."

Now as so often in the past, the United States must balance its support for Israel with its mission of promoting peace and cooperation in a volatile region. The vicious attack by Hamas and its awful aftermath make that quest more, not less, urgent.

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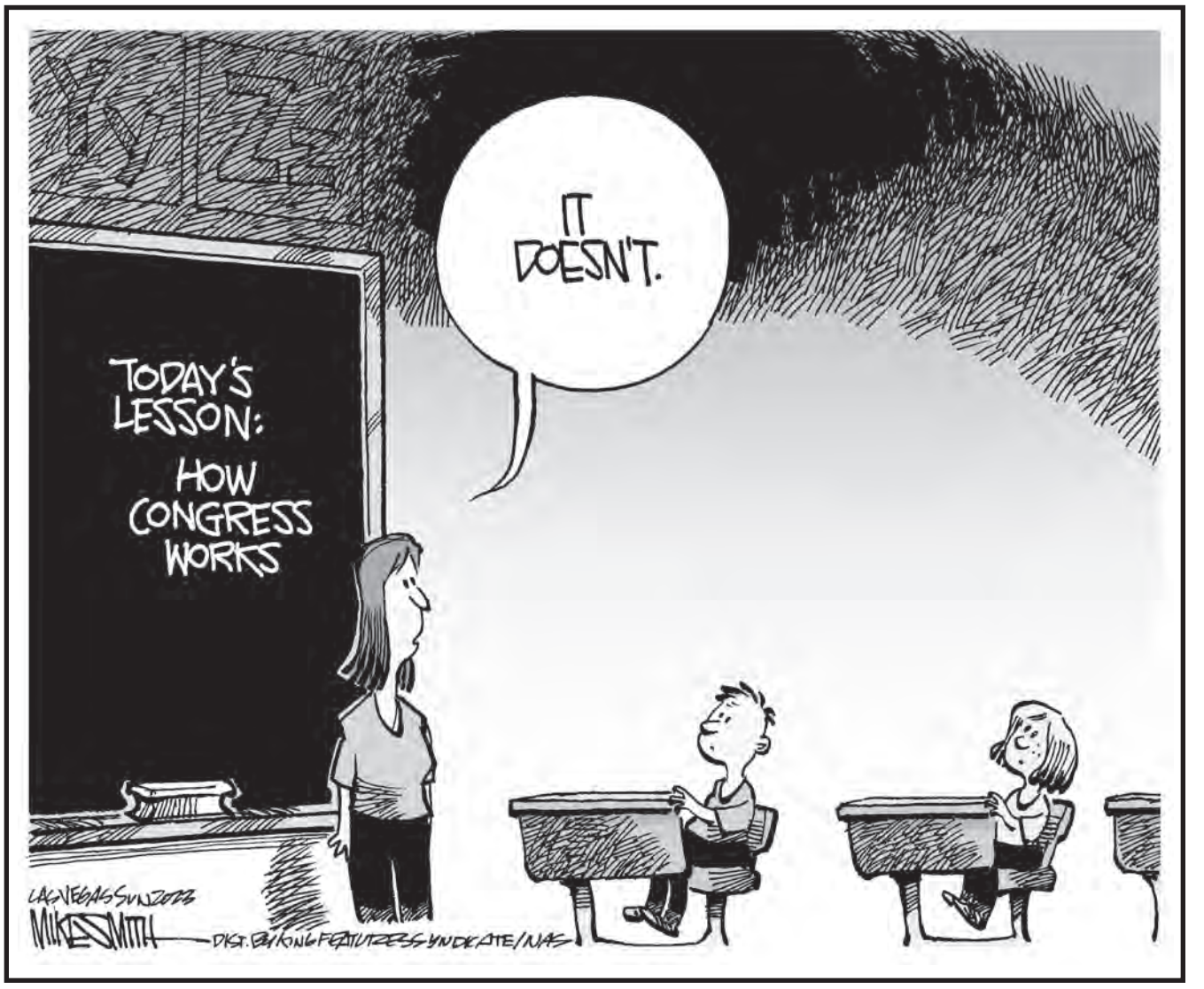


Hamas attack should be recognized as an act of terrorism

By NOAH FELDMAN
Bloomberg Opinion

Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. A professor of law at Harvard University, he is author, most recently, of* The Broken Constitution: Lincoln, Slavery and the Refounding of America.

On the surface, the gridlock caused by the Republican Party's failure to elect a speaker of the House of Representatives looks like a dysfunction of our old-fashioned Constitution. But the fault doesn't lie with that document. The House's dysfunction today is the product of the evolution of the American party system and the House's own rules.

Start with the Constitution's text, which has almost nothing to say about the speaker of the House. Article I, Section 2, Clause 5 says that "the House of Representatives shall chuse [sic] their Speaker and other officers." There is no further mention of the speaker until the 25th Amendment, which dates to the 1960s and assigns the speaker a role in receiving communications about a president's temporary inability to perform his duties. Even the fact that the speaker is second in line for the presidency derives not from the Constitution itself but from a statute, the Presidential Succession Act of 1947.

The reason the framers paid so little attention to the role of the speaker is that they assumed everyone knew what it looked like. Colonial and state legislatures typically had speakers in their lower houses. And England's House of Commons had speakers since before 1367, when Sir Thomas Hungerford became the first person known to history to hold the office.

The speakership tradition was thus more than 400 years old by the 1787 Philadelphia Constitutional Convention. It had evolved a bit over the years, but by the 1760s, the speakership of the House of Commons had taken on something approximating its modern form—that of a parliamentarian who stays away from partisan politics. (Incidentally, the speakers of the House of Commons were always members of Parliament, which is yet another reason to reject the preposterous urban legend that the speaker of the House doesn't have to be a member of Congress.)

Sure enough, in the U.S., the first speakers were not powerful figures—in fact, the odds are you've never heard them. (Frederick Muhlenberg, anyone?) Henry Clay, elected to the speakership in 1811 in his first term in the House, was the first national political figure to exercise substantial power in the role. But the truly dominating position of the speaker began only in the 1880s through the power of the speaker's position as chairman of the rules committee.

The rules of the House are a thicket of complexity and arcana that I won't enter. The key point is that those rules, which also govern how the speaker is chosen, are what say the House can't pass legislation without a speaker. That wouldn't be a big deal if the speaker were chosen non-politically to be a neutral parliamentarian. It is highly relevant, however, in a world where the speaker needs to be chosen by the majority party and that party can't settle on a candidate.

Because the dysfunction is caused by the combination of House rules and polarized partisanship, the only way to fix it would be to change one of those factors. The rules could be shifted so that a temporary speaker could preside over legislation. Or the minority party could provide some votes to a candidate from the majority party. Either fix would be political, not constitutional.

But the tricky thing about a standoff that emanates from the rules of the House is, of course, that you would need a clear majority to make any changes.

The takeaway is that, whenever a semblance of normalcy returns and it becomes possible to choose a speaker with meaningful support, there should be a bipartisan effort to change the rules to make it possible for the House to operate at a baseline level even when it is without a speaker. This wouldn't entail giving all the speaker's power to an interim speaker, but only, say, the possibility of presiding over emergency spending measures—including keeping the government running and providing military aid to allies. Limiting the interim speaker's role would avoid the problem of turning that person into the real speaker or weakening the real speaker by allowing some of the office's power to be exercised by the interim speaker.

Although the Constitution says little about the speaker, the purpose of the document was to create checks and balances—not allow total meltdown when one party can't get its act together.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Heed the president's words: 'Reject all forms of hate.' This is how we help Israel, Gaza

By FABIOLA SANTIAGO
The Miami Herald

"Something doesn't jive. Hamas attacks Israel, takes hostages, kills civilians indescribably, and what do we see? Palestinian flags!"—a Miami reader.

In South Florida, we're often one degree of separation from world conflicts.

In hundreds of thousands of homes, people are more tuned in to international developments than they are to City Hall—and, right now, the unfurling of war in the aftermath of the devastating massacre of innocent Jews by Hamas in Israel—is no different.

To many among us, like the Aventura, Florida, mother whose son has gone to Israel to fight Hamas, the war is personal. To many among us, like the Lebanese Bricklell, Florida, dentist who lost his job after he was seen on video taking down posters of the Hamas hostages, there's another side to the violence.

Our neighbors, be they Jewish or Muslim, are angry, deeply hurt and dazed by the loss of life, not only in Israel but also in the Gaza Strip, where the horrendous bombing of the al-Ahli Hospital, run by the Anglican church, left a huge death toll of Palestinian patients and healers.

While many across the world immediately blamed an Israel airstrike and placed the dead at an ominous 500, the U.S. government said satellite images and ground evidence points to a misfired rocket by another terrorist group, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, which had joined Hamas in the Oct. 7 attack.

The lesson here for us all: A flood of misinformation, including old videos, made its way around the world in a very short time—and people in Arab nations and communities took to the streets in protest, hence the flood of Palestinian flags my Miami reader didn't understand.

Similarly, after the vicious and shocking Hamas attack, reminiscent of our 9/11 and so horrific it echoed the Holocaust for Jews, word spread that babies were decapitated ISIS-style. But while there were cases of Hamas militants carrying out beheadings, the Israeli government hasn't confirmed the specific baby decapitation claim.

Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas the same way the United States went after al-Qaida in 2001—and they're right to do so. But the loss of innocent Palestinian lives is also tragic.

Those black, white, green and red Palestinian flags waved at a Miami rally last week near the Torch of Friendship represent the hope of Arabs and Muslims around the world that Israel also takes the lives of ordinary, peaceful humans into account when they invade Gaza. And they represent the demand that people and families evacuated to the border with Egypt aren't forever banned from returning to their homes.

Just like the blue and white, David-stared flag stands for Israel's right to exist.

'What nations do'

There will be more bloodshed and heartbreak to come—and, at stake, is the future of the Middle East, a region of the world "vital to American security," as President Joe Biden said in his Thursday night address to the nation.

"American leadership is what holds the world together," Biden said, before turning to address our internal reaction to the conflict, warning that acts of antisemitism and Islamophobia are giving "too much oxygen to hate."

"Here in America, let's not forget who we are," Biden said. "We reject all forms of hate. That's what great nations do."

It would do us all well to heed his words.

Many in our community understand this conflict deeply, historically, and personally, but others who are sometimes the loudest only see it through the prism of their political alliances.

If we don't step back from our own agenda, we stand to lose more than a street argument.

Miami's diversity is its strength.

So then, why, oh why, can't we understand and have compassion for the plight of victims on both sides in this endless cycle of death and destruction? At the very least, why not think before we exercise knee-jerk reactions—like taking down the posters of children and women hostages, two of them, a grandmother and her granddaughter, found dead precisely this week at the Israel-Gaza border?

Garland visit to Miami

And please, stop applying extremist Republican-Democratic Party rhetoric to somebody else's war when even Washington is showing some restraint.

In a rare visit to Miami on Thursday, Attorney General Merrick Garland—the top law enforcement official in the country—warned of the rise in hate crimes and "potential threats of hate-fueled violence and terrorism" in the United States.

"Hamas' terrorist attacks on Israel have created understandable fear among communities across the country," Garland said. "As the FBI has noted, we're seeing an increase in reported threats against faith communities, particularly Jewish, Muslim and Arab communities and institutions."

We know this is true in Florida, where acts of antisemitism and Islamophobia have been on the rise, north and south, east and west.

Our local and state leaders must put divisive politics aside and help people better understand the conflict and its shifting and evolving dynamics.

Over decades of committed community relations work, we've learned to understand Cuba, Haiti, Venezuela and Nicaragua as if these countries were Miami suburbs.

It's our turn to extend grace and open hearts and minds to the Jewish and Muslim Americans enduring nightmarish days.

Resist the urge to enter the fray without facts at a time when disinformation reaches people way before substantiated news does.

"When I was in Israel yesterday, I said that when America experienced the hell of 9/11, we felt enraged, as well," Biden said. "While we sought and got justice, we made mistakes. So I cautioned the government of Israel not to be blinded by rage."

The president urged us not to give up on peace—or the two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

It has never been more important to remember who we are in South Florida: a multi-culturally diverse community where all are entitled to our voices, our flags, and a safe place to call home.

I'm a former US diplomat who was stationed in Israel. I feel only empathy and pain

By JESSICA KUNTZ
Los Angeles Times

Jessica Kuntz served as a U.S. diplomat from 2017 through the summer of 2023, with assignments in Tel Aviv, the Bureau of International Organization Affairs and London

During the two years I lived in Israel serving as a junior U.S. diplomat, I used many words to describe the country that I somewhat reluctantly called home. "Never boring" was my go-to, a useful euphemism when Israeli assertiveness exasperated me. "Achingly beautiful" was another, when I spent my weekends hiking through the abundance of spring wildflowers that fill the Golan and Galilee, the expanse of the Negev desert and the stark beauty of the wadis in the West Bank.

And complicated. So, so complicated.

Israel is all those things and more. It is a vivid, endlessly fascinating, often maddening country. A week after my 30th birthday and soon after I had arrived at my post in Tel Aviv, I worked the ceremony officially designating the new U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. While Jared Kushner—somehow blissfully ignorant of the cognitive dissonance—spoke about how moving the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem would advance peace in the region, I refreshed my phone every few minutes, watching the death toll rise as the Israeli Defense Forces clashed with protesters at the Gaza/Israel border. I fought back tears. This wasn't the good I had imagined the U.S. doing in the world.

Before arriving to Israel, I received seven months of Hebrew language instruction. Once, my instructor made an offhand comment that of the 20-some students she had graduated high school with, a quarter hadn't lived to middle age. They'd been killed serving in the army, or as a victim of a terrorist attack, or in a bus bombing or stabbing.

In Israel, I came to think of my role as a diplomat as one that asked me to understand the countries I served in, without necessarily liking everything about them. When I was confronted with the indignities the Israeli government imposes on Palestinians—the onerous checkpoints, the imposed water scarcity, the military raids, the countless restrictions of residency permits—I often thought back to her comment.

It seems so obvious that all these policies breed resentment, creating a vicious cycle. But taking a chance on coexistence doesn't seem so desirable when faced with the obituaries of your classmates. Or when it's your child who will go to the front line if a war breaks out. Or when you've lived with the very real possibility that a terrorist might blow up the bus that you, your partner or your best friend is riding. Who among us would choose a path that might risk the lives of everyone we love?

I realized last week that the only way we can process all the world's pain and suffering is if we remove ourselves from it. But I can't this time. I hear reports of families murdered in their homes, of young people flush from a night of music and dancing hunted and killed, of the sheer terror the kidnapped children must feel knowing that they will likely die without ever seeing their parents again. They are not abstractions. In my mind they are my friends, my classmates, my neighbors. I know this region too well to disengage.

But instead of universal, unqualified horror at the terror wreaked by Hamas, some observers have essentially responded "What did you expect? After everything that Israel has done to the Palestinians, violence is the only option available." But if Palestinians are victims of their circumstances, so too is Israel. It has faced a Faustian bargain, being in immediate proximity to groups whose stated raison d'etre is to wipe it off the face of the earth.

What are Israel's choices? Option 1: Prioritize the physical security of your citizens above all else, including the well-being of Palestinian civilians who bear you no ill will. Option 2: Attempt coexistence with the forces who bombed your buses.

Americans are hardly in a position to preach turning the other cheek. When terrorists killed 2,977 people on U.S. soil, we responded by invading two countries, with widespread public support. Years ago, with the memories of slain compatriots ever present, Israel chose Option 1. It's an awful choice, born out of fear. And the more time passes, the tighter the restrictions, the greater the resentment—the more it seems impossible to reverse course.

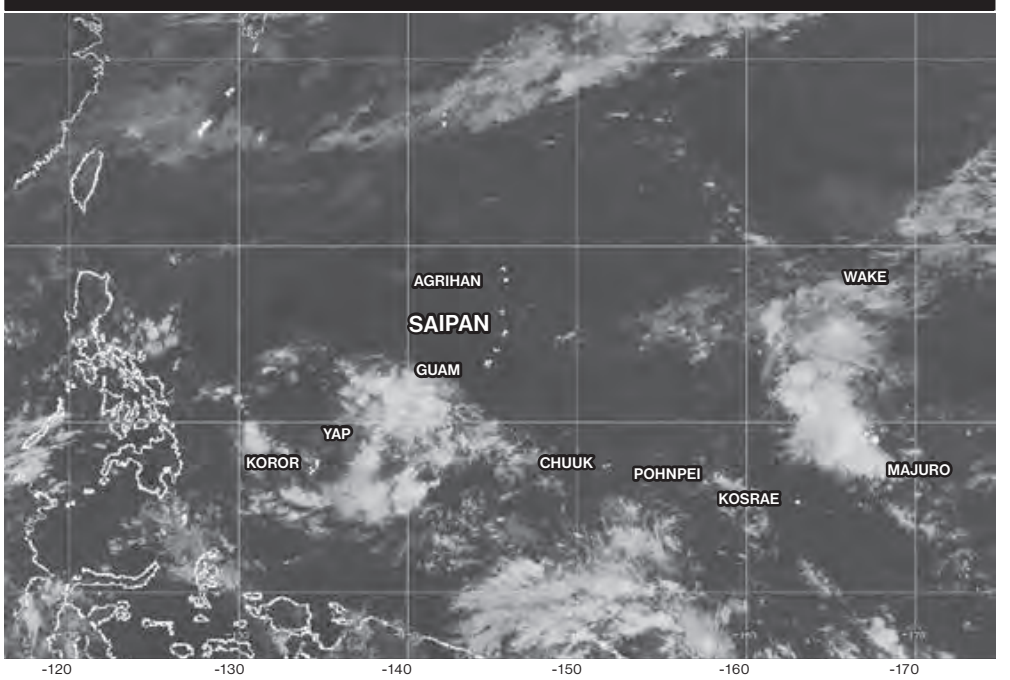
Both Israelis and Palestinians have alternately been victim and aggressor in this conflict. It's easy to pass judgment from the outside, to use words like "apartheid" with a sense of self-righteousness. But from the inside? I feel only empathy and pain, so much pain. For the children who didn't get to grow up. For the people who want peace but don't know how to reach it.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
88 / 78°	88 / 78°	88 / 78°	88 / 78°	88 / 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:28 AM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows partly cloudy skies with isolated showers this morning in the Marianas Waters. The buoys reveal a 4 to 6 foot east-northeast swell, with combined seas being about the same.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Thursday	6:11 AM	5:50 PM
Friday	6:11 AM	5:50 PM
Saturday	6:11 AM	5:49 PM
Sunday	6:11 AM	5:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:22 AM	3:16 PM
Thursday	-	3:21 AM	3:58 PM
Friday	-	4:18 AM	4:39 PM
Saturday	-	5:15 AM	5:21 PM
Sunday	-	6:14 AM	6:05 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	69° / 59°
Beijing	Haze	70° / 45°
Hong Kong	Fair	84° / 76°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 76°
London	Partly Cloudy	52° / 46°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°
Melbourne	Windy	90° / 72°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
New York	Sunny	69° / 61°
Osaka	Cloudy	75° / 56°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 52°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	66° / 48°
Rome	Showers	70° / 55°
Salem	Showers	75° / 68°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	66° / 48°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	69° / 50°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	73° / 57°
Washington, DC	Fair	64° / 46°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:37 AM	High Tide	1.55
10:30 AM	Low Tide	0.01
5:25 PM	High Tide	1.92
11:37 PM	Low Tide	0.69

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Israel-Hamas war has oil markets on edge

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Tensions from the war in Gaza could help accelerate the move away from planet-warming fossil fuels like oil and gas and toward renewable energy, electric cars and heat pumps—similar to how sharp increases in the price of oil during the 1970s unleashed efforts to conserve fuel, the head of the International Energy Agency said.

"Today we are again facing a crisis in the Middle East that could once again shock oil markets," said IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol. That comes on top of the stress on energy markets from Russia's cutoff of natural gas to Europe over its invasion of Ukraine, he said.

"Put these two things together, and no one can convince me that oil are gas are safe and secure energy choices for countries or consumers," Birol told The Associated Press in an interview ahead of the publication Tuesday of the IEA's annual world energy outlook, which analyzes the global picture of energy supply and demand.

"This could further accelerate the energy transition around the world," with renewable sources like wind or solar offering a "long lasting solution" to energy security issues as well as climate change, he said.

The attack on Israel by the militant organization Hamas and the ensuing Israel military operations has raised fears of a wider Mideast conflict, prompting some moderate oil price rises.

Fossil fuel prices are down from 2022 peaks, but "markets are tense and volatile," said the IEA in the report.

"Some of the immediate pressures from the global energy crisis have eased, but energy markets, geopolitics, and the global economy are unsettled and the risk of further disruption is ever present," it said.

Birol pointed out that there was "a major government response" to the energy supply concerns that arose 50 years ago from the Arab oil embargo imposed during the 1973 Yom Kippur war.

It sent oil prices nearly 300% higher and led to the founding of the IEA in 1974 to help shape a collective response to the disruption. That was followed by the 1978 Iranian revolution, which added another price shock. At the time, the solutions included the rollout of nuclear power plants and the imposition of mileage standards for cars.

"This time, we have all of the available technologies," Birol said. "We have solar, wind, nuclear power, electric cars. They will extend significantly around the world and it will be an additional boost to the energy transition."

He pointed to the rapid rollout of electric cars, saying that in 2020 only one in 25 cars was electric but in 2023 it was one in five. Meanwhile the share of fossil fuels in electricity generation has fallen from 70% ten years ago to 60% today and should reach 40% by 2030, he said.

Concerted international action at the upcoming United Nations climate conference is needed to expand use of clean technologies and find new ways of financing the massive investment that is needed, especially in the developing world, the IEA said.

The report also pointed to a shifting role for China, once a leading source of increased demand for energy due to rapid industrialization and growth. The report said energy demand there could peak as soon as 2025 amid slowing growth and "impressive" shifts to clean energy like solar and nuclear.

The IEA estimates that demand for fossil fuels will peak before 2030 under current policies but says governments will have to increase their efforts to speed up the transition if the world is to meet the global goal of keeping warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

AP

The sun begins to set behind crude oil tanks and a pumpjack, July 5, 2022, in Midland, Texas.

Get spooky at Mari Bar this Halloween

Start your spooky festivities on Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Street Halloween Party at Mari Bar, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. Have a fang-tastic night with family and friends enjoying Halloween-themed cocktails, food specials, live entertainment, and mask prizes.

Tantalize your tastebuds with a special $10 menu curated by executive sous chef Zenn Tomokane featuring tasty treats such as fresh poke on waffle cone, ''tarantula tacos" filled with your choice of meat: smoked beef, pulled pork, chicken al pastor or grilled mahi and toppings, ''Dracula's favorite nachos" with red cheese dip and churros with a chocolate velvet-flavored bloody dip.

The event features $12 cocktails such as Black Widow, Red Devil, and Witch Brew and $6 mocktails like Blue Monster Lemonade and Bloody Shirley's Temple. Beer specials are available too with a bucket of beer for $20.

The party starts at 5:30pm and goes on until late with a live band and prizes to be won for best mask for adults and kids.

Join us at Mari Bar, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan this Saturday, Oct. 28. for a wickedly exciting Halloween celebration. We will see you there!

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is a 422-room hotel located in Garapan. Guests will be greeted by the resort's lush tropical gardens and panoramic view of Micro Beach, with Crowne Plaza's warm and friendly hospitality ensuring a seamless arrival. ***(PR)***

CROWNE PLAZA RESORT

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is inviting trick-or-treaters this Saturday, Oct. 28, for a wickedly exciting Halloween celebration at Mari Bar.

Biden names technology hubs for 32 states and Puerto Rico

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration on Monday designated 31 technology hubs spread across 32 states and Puerto Rico to help spur innovation and create jobs in the industries that are concentrated in these areas.

"We're going to invest in critical technologies like biotechnology, critical materials, quantum computing, advanced manufacturing—so the U.S. will lead the world again in innovation across the board," President Joe Biden said. "I truly believe this country is about to take off."

The tech hubs are the result of a process that the Commerce Department launched in May to distribute a total of $500 million in grants to cities.

The $500 million came from a $10 billion authorization in last year's CHIPS and Science Act to stimulate investments in new technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing and biotech. It's an attempt to expand tech investment that is largely concentrated around a few U.S. cities—Austin, Texas; Boston; New York; San Francisco; and Seattle—to the rest of the country.

"I have to say, in my entire career in public service, I have never seen as much interest in any initiative than this one," Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo told reporters during a Sunday conference call to preview the announcement. Her department received 400 applications, she said.

"No matter where I go or who I meet with—CEOs, governors, senators, congresspeople, university presidents—everyone wants to tell me about their application and how excited they are," said Raimondo.

The program, formally the Regional Technology and Innovation Hub Program, ties into the president's economic argument that people should be able to find good jobs where they live and that opportunity should be spread across the country, rather than be concentrated. The White House has sought to elevate that message and highlight Biden's related policies as the Democratic president undertakes his 2024 reelection bid.

The 31 tech hubs reach Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Montana, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Virginia, New Hampshire, Missouri, Kansas, Maryland, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, Minnesota, Louisiana, Idaho, Wyoming, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, New York, Nevada, Missouri, Oregon, Vermont, Ohio, Maine, Washington and Puerto Rico.

Nation

There's a long list of candidates for House speaker

WASHINGTON (AP)—Three weeks now since the ouster of Kevin McCarthy, House Republicans will meet privately to try nominating a new House speaker to accomplish the seemingly impossible job of uniting a broken, bitter GOP majority and returning to the work of governing in Congress.

Having dispatched their speaker then rejected two popular GOP figures as replacements, the House Republicans on Tuesday will be voting instead on a hodge-podge of lesser-known congressmen for speaker, a powerful position second in line to the presidency. The private session could take all day before a nominee emerges.

"We're going to have to figure out how to get our act together—I mean, big boys and big girls have got to quit making excuses and we just got to get it done," said Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-S.D., a conservative caucus leader.

The candidate list is long and jumbled with no obvious choice for the job. There's a former McDonald's franchise owner Rep. Kevin Hern of Oklahoma, a conservative leader, who plied his colleagues with hamburgers seeking their support; Majority Whip Tom Emmer of Minnesota, the gruff former hockey coach who reached out to Donald Trump for backing; newcomer Byron Donalds of Florida, a well-liked Trump ally, and a half dozen others.

No one is expected to emerge from first-round voting and Republicans are planning to stay behind closed doors until they can agree on a nominee. Some have pushed for a signed pledge to abide by rules to support the majority winner, but holdouts remain. The plan is to hold a House floor vote later this week.

AP

Staff members bring in food before Republicans meet to decide who to nominate to be the new House speaker, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, Oct. 23, 2023.

"I feel good, but it's up to the members—it's in their hands now," said Donalds after a candidate forum late Monday evening.

» As Republicans try voting again on a new leader

The House has been in turmoil, without a speaker since the start of the month after a contingent of hardline Republicans ousted McCarthy, creating what's now a governing crisis that's preventing the normal operations of Congress.

The federal government risks a shutdown in a matter of weeks if Congress fails to pass funding legislation by a Nov. 17 deadline to keep services and offices running. More immediately, President Joe Biden has asked Congress to provide $105 billion in aid — to help Israel and Ukraine amid their wars and to shore up the U.S. border with Mexico. Federal aviation and farming programs face expiration without action.

Those running for speaker are mostly conservatives and election deniers, who either voted against certifying the 2020 presidential election results, when Biden defeated Trump, in the run up to the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol, or joined a subsequent lawsuit challenging the results.

Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida, the hard-right leader who engineered McCarthy's ouster, has said several of those in the running — Hern, Donalds or Rep. Mike Johnson, a constitutional law expert from Louisiana, would make a "phenomenal" choice for speaker.

Also running are Reps. Jack Bergman of Michigan, Austin Scott of Georgia, who had briefly challenged Jordan with a protest bid, Pete Sessions of Texas and Gary Palmer of Alabama. Rep. Dan Meuser of Pennsylvania withdrew from the race.

What Gaetz and other hard-liners are resisting is a leader who joined in voting for the budget deal that McCarthy struck with Biden earlier this year, which set federal spending levels that the far-right Republicans don't agree with and now want to undo. They are pursuing steeper cuts to federal programs and services with next month's funding deadline.

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene said she wanted assurances the candidates would pursue impeachment inquiries into Biden and other top Cabinet officials.

Republicans gathered late in the evening Monday to hear quick speeches from the congressmen seeking the job, elevator pitches ahead of Tuesday's internal party voting. They have also heard from voters back home who want them to get back to work and appeared ready to try to move on.

"There seems to be some sort of compromise in the room," said Rep, Nick LaLota, a more centrist New York Republican after the hours-long session.

Senior-most among the hopefuls is Emmer, and he and others are reaching out to Trump for backing.

"They all called asking for support," said Trump, the Republican front-runner in the 2024 presidential race, who was in New Hampshire registering for the state's primary ballot.

Trump downplayed, even derided, Emmer, the third-ranking House Republican with whom he has had a rocky relationship, while presenting himself as a kingmaker who talks to "a lot of congressmen" seeking his stamp of approval.

Menendez enters not guilty plea to new conspiracy charge

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez returned to Manhattan federal court Monday to challenge a new criminal charge alleging that he conspired to act as an agent of the Egyptian government when he chaired the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"Not guilty," Menendez, 69, said when Judge Sidney H. Stein asked him for a plea to the charge. It was his first appearance before Stein, who is expected to preside over a trial tentatively scheduled for May.

Stein said the plea was the sole purpose for the hearing and adjourned the proceeding after less than five minutes. The New Jersey Democrat left the courthouse minutes later without speaking to reporters waiting outside. At an arraignment before a magistrate judge last month, Menendez was released on a $100,000 bond.

In a statement issued after the hearing, Menendez repeated his claim that the new charge "flies in the face of my long record of standing up for human rights and democracy in Egypt and in challenging leaders of that country."

He again called it "as outrageous as it is absurd" and said he has been loyal only to the United States his entire life.

"The facts haven't changed. The government is engaged in primitive hunting, by which the predator chases its prey until it's exhausted and then kills it. This tactic won't work," he said. "I will not litigate this case through the press, but have made it abundantly clear that I have done nothing wrong and once all the facts are presented will be found innocent."

Menendez was forced to step down from his powerful post leading the Senate committee after he was charged last month. Prosecutors said the senator and his wife, Nadine Menendez, accepted bribes of cash, gold bars and a luxury car over the past five years from three New Jersey businessmen in exchange for a variety of corrupt acts.

The other defendants entered not guilty charges to a superseding indictment last week. The senator was permitted to delay his arraignment so he could tend to Senate duties. He has said that throughout his life he has been loyal to the United States and that he will prove he is innocent.

Menendez has resisted calls from more than 30 Democrats to resign.

The rewritten indictment added a charge alleging that the senator, his wife and one of the businessmen conspired to have Menendez act as an agent of the government of Egypt and Egyptian officials.

As a member of Congress, Menendez is prohibited from acting as an agent for a foreign government.

Menendez is accused of passing information to the Egyptians about the staff at the U.S. embassy in Cairo, ghostwriting a letter on Egypt's behalf intended to influence fellow senators and urging the U.S. State Department to get more involved in international negotiations to block a dam project Egypt opposed, among other things.

Last week, Nadine Menendez and a businessman, Wael Hana, pleaded not guilty to the superseding indictment.

Both of them were charged with conspiring with the senator to use him as an agent of the government of Egypt and its officials. The charge carries a potential penalty of up to five years in prison.

ACROSS THE NATION

Mayor says West Maui to reopen to tourism on Nov. 1

HONOLULU (AP)—All of West Maui except for burned-out sections of historic Lahaina will reopen to tourism on Nov. 1 following the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than century, the mayor of Maui County said Monday. Mayor Richard Bissen said he made the move after talking about it with his Lahaina advisory team, the Red Cross and other partners. West Maui has about 11,000 hotel rooms, or about half of Maui's total. Travelers evacuated those hotels after the Aug. 8 fire raged through Lahaina town, killing at least 99 people and destroying more than 2,000 buildings. Hawaii Gov. Josh Green last month declared West Maui would officially reopen to tourism on Oct. 8 to bring back badly needed jobs and help the economy recover. Bissen modified the governor's declaration with a phased plan, allowing a small section on the northern edge of West Maui to open first with the rest to follow at an undetermined date. The community has had an impassioned debate about when to welcome travelers back to the disaster-stricken region. Some residents drafted a petition opposing the return of tourists, saying the community wasn't ready.

'Superfog' near New Orleans blamed for highway crashes that killed at least 7

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—At least seven people were killed Monday after a "superfog" of smoke from marsh fires and dense morning fog caused a series of wrecks on Interstate 55 near New Orleans that left a long stretch of mangled and scorched cars, trucks and tractor-trailers. An estimated 158 vehicles were involved and 25 people injured, according to the Louisiana State Police, who warned the death toll could climb as first responders worked into the night looking for victims, the smell of burnt wreckage still heavy in the air. Vehicles were crushed, piled atop each other and engulfed by flames. Some people got out of their vehicles and stood on the side of the road or on the roofs of their cars looking in disbelief at the disaster, while others cried out for help.

Off-duty pilot is accused of trying to shut down engines of Horizon Air jet in midflight

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—An off-duty pilot riding in the extra seat in the cockpit of a Horizon Air passenger jet tried to shut down the engines in midflight and had to be subdued by the crew, a pilot flying the plane told air traffic controllers. Authorities in Oregon identified the man as Joseph David Emerson, 44. He was being held Monday on 83 counts each of attempted murder and reckless endangerment and one count of endangering an aircraft, according to the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. The San Francisco-bound flight on Sunday diverted to Portland, Oregon, where Emerson was taken into custody by officers from the Port of Portland. He is to be arraigned Tuesday. Seattle-based Alaska Airlines, which owns Horizon, a regional carrier, did not name Emerson, but said Monday that the threat was posed by one of its pilots who was off duty but authorized to occupy the cockpit jump seat. The airline said in a statement that the captain and copilot "quickly responded, engine power was not lost and the crew secured the aircraft without incident."

Asia

US reiterates PH defense

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The United States renewed a warning Monday that it would defend the Philippines in case of an armed attack under a 1951 treaty, after Chinese ships blocked and collided with two Filipino vessels off a contested shoal in the South China Sea.

Philippine diplomats summoned a Chinese Embassy official in Manila on Monday for a strongly worded protest following Sunday's collisions off Second Thomas Shoal. No injuries were reported but the encounters damaged a Philippine coast guard ship and a wooden-hulled supply boat operated by navy personnel, officials said.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. called an emergency meeting with the defense secretary and other top military and security officials to discuss the latest hostilities in the disputed waters. The Philippines and other neighbors of China have resisted Beijing's sweeping territorial claims over virtually the entire South China Sea, and some, like Manila, have sought U.S. military support as incidents multiply.

After the meeting, Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro blasted China in a news conference for resorting to "brute force" that he said endangered Filipino crew members and for twisting the facts to conceal its aggression.

"The Philippine government views the latest aggression by China as a blatant violation of international law," Teodoro said. "China has no legal right or authority to conduct law enforcement operations in our territorial waters and in our exclusive economic zone."

Marcos ordered an investigation of the high-sea collisions, Teodoro said, but he refused to disclose what steps the Philippine government would take.

"We are taking these incidents seriously at the highest levels of government," he said, adding that the government called for a news conference to provide accurate facts. "The Chinese government is deliberately obfuscating the truth," the defense chief said.

The Philippines also plans to raise its alarm over the Chinese ships' dangerous maneuvers in talks between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on a proposed nonaggression pact—a "code of conduct"—to prevent a major armed conflict in the South China Sea. Beijing is hosting the three-day negotiations starting Monday, two Philippine officials told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to publicly discuss details of the talks.

Teodoro said it was "very ironic" that China was hosting the talks that aim to prevent major conflicts at sea when they just committed "a blatant disregard of international law."

The territorial conflicts involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have long been regarded as a flashpoint in a delicate fault line in the U.S.-China rivalry.

About five Chinese coast guard ships, eight accompanying vessels and two navy ships formed a blockade on Sunday to prevent two Philippine coast guard ships and two boats from delivering food and other supplies to Filipino forces stationed at Second Thomas Shoal aboard a marooned navy ship, Philippine coast guard Commodore Jay Tarriela said.

During the standoff, one of the Philippine coast guard ships and a supply boat were separately hit by a Chinese coast guard ship and a vessel. Only one of the two Filipino boats managed to deliver supplies to Philippine forces, Tarriela said.

The senior Chinese diplomat who was summoned by Philippine foreign officials repeated China's assertion that the Philippine vessels intruded into Chinese territory.

"China once again urges the Philippines to take seriously China's grave concerns, honor its promise, stop making provocations at sea, stop making dangerous moves, stop groundlessly attacking and slandering China, and to tow away the illegally 'grounded' warship as soon as possible," Zhou Zhiyong was quoted as saying by the Chinese Embassy in Manila.

He was referring to the Sierra Madre, which serves as Manila's territorial outpost at the shoal after being deliberately ran aground in 1999.

The Chinese coast guard on Sunday blamed the Philippine vessels for causing the collisions and said the Filipinos were carrying construction materials to strengthen their outpost at the shoal.

The U.S. and other allies expressed alarm over the Chinese action. Washington renewed a warning that it's obligated to defend the Philippines under a 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty if Filipino forces, ships and aircraft come under an armed attack, including "those of its coast guard—anywhere in the South China Sea."

"The United States stands with our Philippine allies in the face of the People's Republic of China coast guard and maritime militia's dangerous and unlawful actions obstructing an October 22 Philippine resupply mission to Second Thomas Shoal," the U.S. State Department said in a statement issued by its embassy in Manila.

It blamed the dangerous maneuvers by China's ships for the collisions and added that they "violated international law by intentionally interfering with the Philippine vessels' exercise of high seas freedom of navigation."

The State Department also cited a 2016 arbitration ruling that invalidated China's expansive claims to the South China Sea on historical grounds, including in Second Thomas Shoal.

4 suspected N. Korean defectors found in S. Korean waters

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Four suspected North Korean defectors were found in a small wooden boat near the two Koreas' sea border Tuesday, South Korean officials said.

Defections by North Koreans have been a sore point in relations between the two Koreas. South Korea accepts those who choose to resettle in the South, but North Korea often says its people are held against their will in the South and demand they be returned.

A coast guard ship found the boat south of the sea border upon a report by a fishing boat and the four people on board identified themselves as North Koreans, coast guard officials said.

South Korea's military said it secured the custody of the North Koreans in coordination with the coast guard, after chasing their boat along the two Koreas' eastern sea border. The statement said the North Koreans were suspected of defecting to South Korea but gave no further details.

South Korea's Unification Ministry confirmed an investigation of the North Koreans was underway but refused to provide details.

More than 30,000 North Koreans have fled to South Korea to avoid poverty and political oppression since the late 1990s. A vast majority of them have come via China and then Southeast Asian countries, and defecting by sea is uncommon.

World

Hamas frees 2 Israeli women

AP

This image taken from video released by Al Qassam brigades on its Telegram channel, shows Yocheved Lifshitz, 85, center, and Nurit Cooper, 79, being escorted by Hamas as they are released to the Red Cross in an unknown location, Monday, Oct. 23, 2023.

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—Hamas on Monday released two elderly Israeli women held hostage in Gaza as the United States expressed increasing concern that the escalating Israel-Hamas war will spark a wider conflict in the region, including attacks on American troops.

The death toll in Gaza rose rapidly as Israel ramped up airstrikes that flattened buildings in what it said was preparation for an eventual ground assault. The United States advised Israel to delay the expected invasion to allow time to negotiate the release of more hostages taken by Hamas during its brutal incursion two weeks ago.

A third small aid convoy from Egypt entered Gaza, where the population of 2.3 million has been running out of food, water and medicine under Israel's sealed border. With Israel still barring entry of fuel, the United Nations said its distribution of aid would grind to a halt within days when it can no longer fuel trucks inside Gaza. Hospitals flooded by a constant stream of wounded are struggling to keep generators running to power lifesaving medical equipment and incubators for premature babies.

The two freed hostages, 85-year-old Yocheved Lifshitz and 79-year-old Nurit Cooper, were taken out of Gaza at the Rafah crossing into Egypt, where they were put into ambulances, according to footage shown on Egyptian TV. The two women, along with their husbands, were snatched from their homes in the kibbutz of Nir Oz near the Gaza border during Hamas' Oct. 7 rampage into southern Israeli communities. Their husbands, ages 83 and 84, were not released.

"While I cannot put into words the relief that she is now safe, I will remain focused on securing the release of my father and all those—some 200 innocent people—who remain hostages in Gaza," Lifshitz' daughter, Sharone Lifschitz, said in a statement.

Lifschitz, an artist and academic in London who uses a different spelling for her name, told reporters last week that her parents were peace activists, and her father would drive to the Gaza border to take Palestinians to east Jerusalem for medical treatment.

Kindness, she said last week, could somehow save them.

"I grew up, you know, with all these Holocaust stories about how all my uncles' lives were saved because" of acts of kindness, she said.

"Do I want that to be the story here?" she asked. "Yeah."

Hamas apparently received nothing in exchange for the release of the two hostages, who were freed days after an American woman and her teenage daughter were also freed. Hamas and other militants in Gaza are believed to have taken roughly 220 people, including an unconfirmed number of foreigners and dual citizens.

6 killed in Russian rocket strike on mail depot

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—A missile strike on a mail depot in the eastern city of Kharkiv killed six people, Ukrainian officials said Sunday, as Ukraine reported a record number of bomb attacks in the southern Kherson region.

A further 17 people were wounded in the blast late Saturday, which is believed to have been caused by a Russian S-300 rocket, Kharkiv Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said on social media. All of the victims were employees of private Ukrainian postal and courier service Nova Poshta.

The Ukrainian-held frontline city has been at the heart of fierce fighting as both Moscow and Kyiv push for battlefield breakthroughs amid the looming onset of wintry conditions. Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his war against Ukraine in February last year.

In a statement, Nova Poshta said the air raid siren had sounded just moments before the attack, leaving those inside the depot with no time to reach shelter. It announced that Sunday would be a day of mourning for the firm.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the strike as an attack on an "ordinary civilian object."

"We need to respond to Russian terror every day with results on the front line. And, even more so, we need to strengthen global unity in order to fight against this terror," he wrote on social media. "Russia will not be able to achieve anything through terror and murder. The end result for all terrorists is the same: the need to face responsibility for what they have done."

Elsewhere in the Kharkiv region, three people were wounded in Russian shelling on the city of Kupiansk, Syniehubov said.

Officials in southern Ukraine said Sunday the Russian military had used a record number of aerial bombs over the country's Kherson region in the previous 24 hours.

Natalia Humeniuk, a spokesperson for the Ukrainian military's Operational Command South, said that 36 missiles had been recorded over the area, with some villages being hit by several strikes.

Good Housekeeping

The art of being a welcomed houseguest

By CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service

Whether it is for a weekend or longer, there remains a certain protocol when it comes to being a welcomed houseguest. With websites popping up daily offering guests a rented room in one's home or an entire dwelling, the feeling of an actual home environment is more appealing to travelers than ever. Enter the invited houseguest. Whether it is an invitation extended by a close friend or business associate, you are going to want to make sure that your stay is pleasant for both you and especially your host and that you leave a good impression.

Here are some tips on being a welcomed houseguest (one who will likely get invited back):

Try to not arrive empty handed. The bottle of wine is perfect to bring to a dinner party, but when it comes to being a houseguest a more personal gift may do the trick such as a local guide or special book.

Respect the rules of the house. If everyone is in bed by 9, try to not stay up making noise that may disturb. Instead, opt to retire to your room and read or watch television in private.

Ditch the cellphone. Someone has invited you into their home and likely wants your attention and time. Nothing is more rude than a guest who is constantly checking emails or making private phone calls.

HANDOUT/TNS

Spa items such as bath salts and scrubs are wonderful gift options.

HANDOUT/TNS

Flowers and other arrangements make for great gifts to bring as a guest.

Participate! You are there to enjoy your host's company and that of their family. If an invitation is extended to you for an outing, attend, even if the selected activity may not be your preferred pastime.

Lend a helping hand. Even if your host seems to have everything under control, offer to help. Even small tasks like making morning coffee or setting the table can be appreciated and help to relieve pressure from your host.

Keep it tidy. Remember you are in someone's home. It is a thoughtful and respectful gesture to take the time to keep the room you are staying in nice and tidy. Upon departure, even though the sheets will be laundered after you have departed, be sure to make your bed and leave the room as your host presented it to you.

Send a thank you note. Regardless of the length of your stay, be sure to always send a thank you note after your visit. This thoughtful gesture will always be appreciated.

Is a tiny home right for you? Here's how to find out

By KAITLYN KEEGAN
Tribune News Service

Can you imagine yourself living in under 500 square feet? For many, tiny living gives them the opportunity to travel, pare down their belongings and save money. Especially since the pandemic, tiny living has taken off, offering a budget friendly way to live with the freedom for adventure.

Tiny living isn't for everyone and the attitude that drew people toward it is slowly changing as the pandemic ends and people get back to their "normal." According to interior designer Kellie Burke of Kellie Burke Interiors in West Hartford, Connecticut, many people are going back to large entertaining spaces in their homes.

"I'm not seeing anyone wanting to live in small spaces anymore. They like a downsize, but they want the downsize to feel large and have lots of storage," Burke said. "We love creating small spaces with big impact. People can't believe how much easier it is to make a full design come together on a budget in a smaller home; much less to purchase and cover."

However for some, the tiny living movement is still alive and well. There are some things to consider before going tiny to see if it's the right step for you.

"With rent prices rising, tiny homes present an increasingly affordable long-term housing option," Sharon McCormick of Sharon McCormick Design in Glastonbury said. "Tiny homes, which are often outfitted with solar panels, are attractive to consumers who wish to live off the grid."

Those who also follow a minimalist lifestyle find tiny homes attractive.

"Tiny living isn't for everyone though and it's important to find that out before investing time and money," she said. "I suggest renting a tiny home for a few days to see how conducive the smaller space is to living your intended lifestyle."

Daily routine

While renting a small space, McCormick said buy groceries to see how much storage is actually available in the fridge and cabinets. You can't buy in bulk in a tiny home.

PETER HOEKS

For many, tiny living offers a budget friendly way to live, with the opportunity to travel, pare down belongings and save money.

Cook your meals in the tiny home along with using the dishwasher.

"Do you feel claustrophobic and isolated or more free from obligations and stuff?" McCormick asked.

Also with your daily routine, go through your normal hygiene. Tiny homes generally have showers and no tubs. You can't take a bubble bath with wine and cheese in a shower.

Another thing many people don't consider before going tiny is vertical living. Tiny homes use every inch of space available and that includes going up. Bed spaces are usually sleeping lofts. Are you OK with using a ladder or climbing tiny stairs?

"Use the opportunity to mindfully go through every step of your typical day," McCormick said. "If you will be living with someone else in your new tiny home, be sure to include them in this experiment. Sounds will carry and alone time will be very limited. How will that factor into your future happiness?"

Building or buying a tiny home

If you have decided living tiny is for you, the next step is acquiring your new home. There are a few factors to consider.

Planning and zoning requirements differ depending on where you live. Before planning on a plot, research these requirements. You don't want to get your heart set on a spot and then find out a tiny home isn't allowed or you need to put in sewer or water.

After deciding on a location, begin researching plans for tiny homes and sketch out your ideas. RV interiors are a good place to start for ideas on layouts and using double-duty items.

"The smaller a home is the more it needs to be thoughtfully designed to the last fraction of an inch," McCormick said. "Large windows will make your tiny home feel more expansive and less confining, but that will limit cabinetry and other storage space."

With a small space, it will be cheaper to build and buy building materials. This may allow you to splurge on some higher-end finishes.

"All of the basic decisions that need to be made for a standard-sized house will still need to be made for a tiny house, such as cabinetry, plumbing fixtures, lighting, electrical requirements, roofing, windows and siding," she said.

Before the move

Once you make the decision to go tiny, start by clearing out everything from your current home that you will not be able to use or store in your tiny home. Donate, sell or throw away everything but the essentials.

"Be aware that much of your furniture and art will likely not fit when you are considering what to keep. There are trade offs to be made," McCormick said. "It can be very difficult to part with a lifetime of belongings. If you will need to rent a storage space, factor that into your financial equation."

Once you go through the process, you will be better equipped to make the decision on going tiny or not. Do you like to entertain dozens of guests for the holidays? Are you OK with more outside living than inside? Are you willing to part with many of your things? These are all important questions to ask yourself before joining the tiny home movement.

Life & Style

Actors strike delays next 'Mission: Impossible' film

NEW YORK (AP)—The eighth installment of the "Mission: Impossible" franchise has been postponed a year, signaling a new wave of release schedule juggling for Hollywood studios as the actors strike surpasses three months of work stoppage.

Paramount Pictures on Monday shifted the release date of the next "Mission: Impossible" from June 28 to May 23, 2025. Production on the follow-up to Christopher McQuarrie's "Mission: Impossible—Dead Reckoning Part One" was paused in July while Tom Cruise and company embarked on an international promotion blitz for "Dead Reckoning." (The sequel had been titled "Mission: Impossible—Dead Reckoning Part Two" but is now simply listed currently as "Mission: Impossible.")

"Dead Reckoning" ultimately grossed $567.5 million worldwide, falling shy of 2018 installment "Fallout" ($791.7 million globally) and the heady highs of Cruise's summer 2022 blockbuster "Top Gun: Maverick" ($1.5 billion). The 163-minute-long action thriller, drew some of the best reviews of the 27-year-old movie franchise, but was quickly eclipsed by the box-office juggernauts of "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer."

As Hollywood's labor turmoil has continued, it's increasingly upended release plans not just for movies this fall that want to wait until their stars can promote them (like "Dune: Part Two," postponed to March), but some of next year's top big-screen attractions.

A string of Marvel movies have previously shifted back, as did the third "Venom" film. "Spider-Man: Beyond the Spider-Verse," has been delayed indefinitely after being dated for March 2024.

Paramount also announced Monday that "A Quiet Place: Day One," a prequel to the post-apocalyptic horror series starring Lupita Nyong'o, will have its release pushed from March to when "Dead Reckoning" had been scheduled to open, on June 28.

Negotiations between the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists and the studios are scheduled to resume Tuesday.

Milwaukee comic shop looking to sell copy of first appearance of Spider-Man, book could go for $35K

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A Milwaukee comic book shop is looking to sell a rare copy of the first appearance of Spider-Man.

Collector's Edge has acquired a copy of Amazing Fantasy No. 15, the Journal Sentinel reported. The comic book, written by Marvel Comics icon Stan Lee and published in 1962, tells the story of how Peter Parker was bitten by a radioactive spider, gained amazing powers and learns that with great power comes great responsibility.

The shop's owner, Steve Dobrzynski, first posted photos of the book on social media last Tuesday. He told the Journal Sentinel a couple found the book among a dead relative's possessions and brought it to him for help selling it. He did not name the couple.

A near-perfect copy of Amazing Fantasy No. 15 sold for $3.6 million at auction in Texas in 2021. The Collector's Edge copy is worn and the edges have small tears.

Dobrzynski sent it to the Certified Guaranty Company, a Florida-based comics and collectibles grading service. The service rated the book at 3.0 on a scale of 0.5 to 10, with 0.5 being very bad condition and 10 being perfect condition. Dobrzynski said the book could fetch as much as $35,000.

"It depends, if you put it up at auction, who's bidding on it," he said. "If nobody's bidding on it, it's obviously going to sell for a bit less."

Dobrzynski contacted some regular customers to give them a shot at buying the book before making it public, but he hasn't gotten a yes or no from any of them yet.

"They're thinking about it, but I can only wait so long for people to think about it," Dobrzynski said. "If I'm selling it for someone else, my due diligence is to try to get the best possible price I can."

AP

Steve Dobrzynski, owner of Collector's Edge Comics, holds an Amazing Fantasy #15 Marvel comic which is the first appearance of the Amazing Spider-Man on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023 in Milwaukee, Wis.

Swift bests Scorsese at box office

NEW YORK (AP) — In a movie match-up almost as unlikely as "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer," Martin Scorsese took on Taylor Swift in cinemas over the weekend. And while the box office belonged for a second time to "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour," Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon" got off to a strong start in Apple Studios' first major theatrical gambit.

After a record-breaking opening weekend of $92.8 million, "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" took in an estimated $31 million over the weekend from 3,855 locations, according to AMC Theaters. In an unconventional deal, the theater chain is distributing Swift's concert film, and playing it only Thursdays through Sundays.

Most Swifties rushed to see the film on opening weekend, when a large percent of sales were driven by advance ticketing. Sales dropped a steep 67% in its second weekend, potentially signifying that "The Eras Tour" was predominantly an opening-weekend phenomenon.

But "The Eras Tour" has still proved to be a movie event unlike any other. Within days, it became the highest grossing concert film ever in North America, not accounting for inflation. It's quickly accumulated $129.8 million domestically.

More was riding on "Killers of the Flower Moon," a historical crime drama about a string of murders against the Osage nation in the early 1920s. The film, which cost at least $200 million to make, is the largest production yet from Apple Studios. The streamer partnered with Paramount Pictures to release Scorsese's adaptation of David Grann's bestseller in 3,628 theaters, with plans to later stream it on a not-yet-announced date on Apple TV+.

- "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour," $31 million.
- "Killers of the Flower Moon," $23 million.
- "The Exorcist: Believer," $5.6 million.
- "Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie," $4.5 million.
- "The Nightmare Before Christmas," $4.1 million.
- "Saw X," $3.6 million.
- "The Creator," $2.6 million.
- "Leo: Bloody Sweet," $2.1 million.
- "A Haunting in Venice," $1.1 million.
- "The Blind," $1 million.

Result of doctor visit is a case of confusion

DEAR ABBY: I am a man in my 50s. A few months ago, I had a routine doctor's appointment, with a new primary care physician. I intended the appointment to be a complete, regular physical. I don't (thankfully) have any major physical health issues that I know of. But I was always taught it is wise to have periodic physical exams, in case there is a less obvious medical issue, as well as get to know one's doctor.

I went for the physical exam. I was not asked to undress as I have been with all my previous doctors. The doctor seemed nice, but I found it strange that I wasn't examined physically. I find it hard to understand how a doctor could properly examine me without me undressing. The doctor should be used to seeing bodies, and I cannot understand why the doctor or staff were reluctant to ask me to undress.

I found this all very confusing. Perhaps there was some miscommunication? I don't know if this is unusual, temporary or a new normal that I haven't heard about. Next time, should I be more clear about wanting to be examined thoroughly, or should I change doctors?

COVERED UP IN VIRGINIA

DEAR COVERED UP: Contact the doctor, explain that in the past you have always had a complete physical which involved you disrobing and ask why it didn't happen during your last visit. If the answer you receive is unsatisfactory, change doctors.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married nine years. We are active in our church. I am very involved with our women's ministry, but my husband has an issue with our leader, "Nedra." Nedra has bad-mouthed my husband to my face. I went to my pastor with the issue, and I am, basically, waiting on God to fix it.

Our WM team meets multiple times a week, which means I leave my husband home alone for dinner on those nights. (I always make sure he has dinner when I'm not home.) Our meetings can go on for an hour and a half to two hours, and my husband is always upset when I get home from them.

I don't know what to do. He's not upset that I'm going to the meetings; he's upset at how long they last. Nedra doesn't like him, and he doesn't like her, especially since he knows what she said about him. I feel stuck in the middle. What do I do?

LADY OF FAITH IN TEXAS

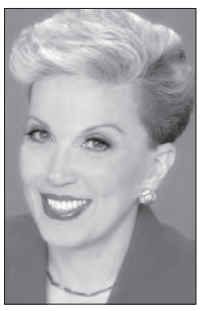
DEAR LADY: If these meetings occur more than twice a week, your husband may have a point. Whether he and Nedra like each other is beside the point, unless what he resents is that you are with that "witch." He may feel it encroaches on time you should be spending together. It's time you and your husband have a calm discussion about the frequency and length of those meetings so an acceptable compromise can be reached. Start now.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

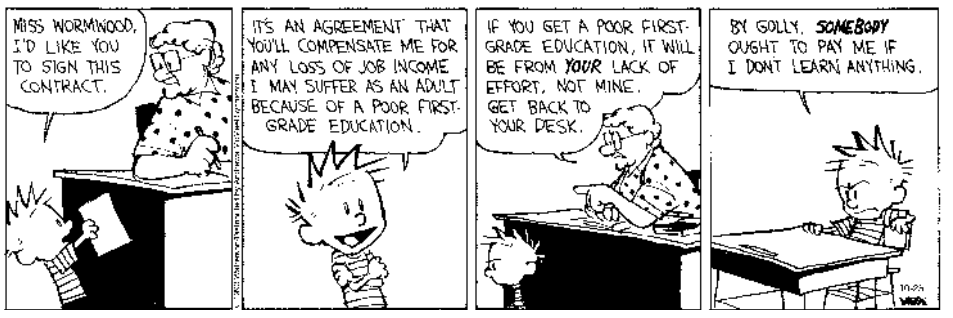


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

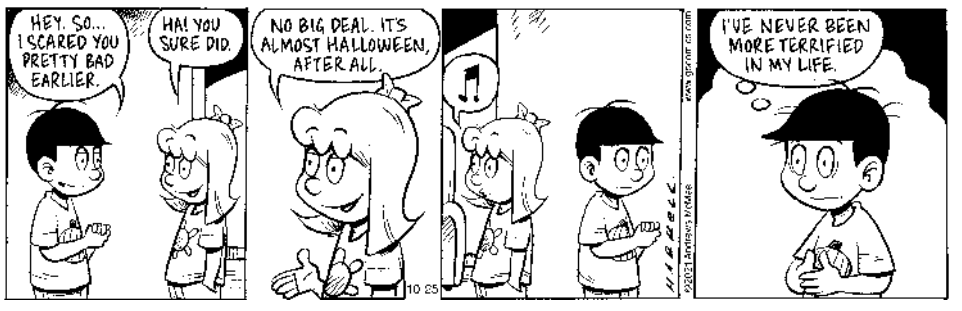

MISS WORMWOOD, I'D LIKE YOU TO SIGN THIS CONTRACT.
IT'S AN AGREEMENT THAT YOU'LL COMPENSATE ME FOR ANY LOSS OF JOB INCOME I MAY SUFFER AS AN ADULT BECAUSE OF A POOR FIRST-GRADE EDUCATION.
IF YOU GET A POOR FIRST-GRADE EDUCATION, IT WILL BE FROM YOUR LACK OF EFFORT, NOT MINE. GET BACK TO YOUR DESK.
BY GOLLY, SOMEBODY OUGHT TO PAY ME IF I DON'T LEARN ANYTHING.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

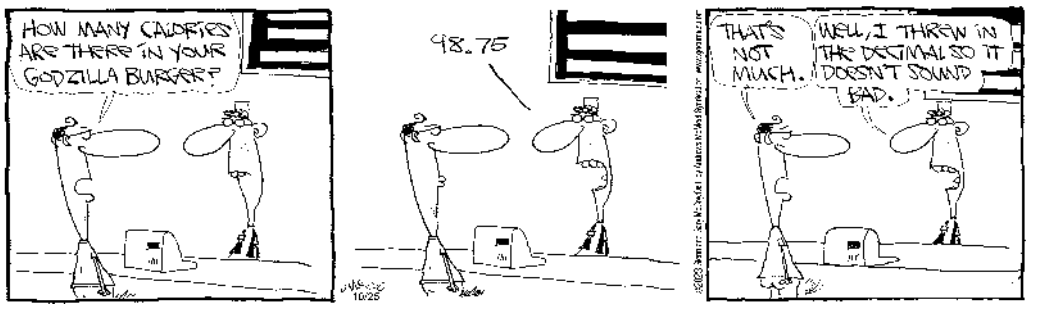
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HEY. SO... I SCARED YOU PRETTY BAD EARLIER.
HA! YOU SURE DID.
NO BIG DEAL. IT'S ALMOST HALLOWEEN, AFTER ALL.
I'VE NEVER BEEN MORE TERRIFIED IN MY LIFE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Hey, you!"
5 — choy
8 Canadian gas brand
12 Tennis apparel brand
13 Historic period
14 Hotel worker
15 Prying tools
17 Concerning
18 Official seal
19 Not as easy
21 "Certainly!"
22 Melville captain
23 Actress Dawber
26 Texter's "More than I need to know!"
28 Arcade pioneer
31 Rocky outcrop
33 Recede
35 Cupid's alias
36 Pricey violin
38 Ryan of "Top Gun"
40 "Get comfy"
41 Disparaging remark
43 Boater, e.g.
45 White rat, e.g.
47 Showy shrub
51 Repast
52 Seedy watering holes
54 Stallion's mate
55 Chemical suffix
56 Ovid's 53
57 Guesser's words
58 Refusals
59 Story lines

DOWN

1 Some GIs
2 Voice in an iPhone
3 Trudge
4 Lion's color
5 "Who knows?"
6 Bobby of hockey
7 Buckwheat porridge
8 Arab state
9 Shoals
10 Beget
11 Frankfurt's river
16 Borscht base
20 "Eureka!"
23 Mac alternatives
24 Louvre treasures
25 Some Halloween candies
27 "Big Blue"
29 King, in Cannes
30 Follower (Suff.)
32 Italian astronomer
34 Toes the line
37 Press for payment
39 Fixed look
42 "The Thinker" sculptor
44 Hand drums of India
45 Bullets
46 Shakespearean king
48 Hideaway
49 Idle of Monty Python
50 Tag sale words
53 Altar vow

Solution time: 23 mins.

Γ	L	O	P	■	I	I	B	O	■	S	A	L	T
I	A	G	O	■	A	F	R	■	C	I	U	F
S	C	R	I	B	B	L	E	■	R	O	L	L
T	E	E	■	O	I	L	■	T	I	T	L	E
■	■	■	S	A	I	■	L	I	P	■	■	■
N	A	R	C	S	■	W	I	L	T	I	N	G
B	A	R	R	■	H	A	S	■	U	B	E	R
C	A	S	I	N	O	S	■	A	R	M	O	R
■	■	■	V	I	P	■	N	N	E	■	■	■
I	N	D	E	X	■	S	E	T	■	A	V	A
B	O	O	N	■	S	C	R	I	A	B	I	N
I	S	L	E	■	P	A	D	■	I	C	L	D
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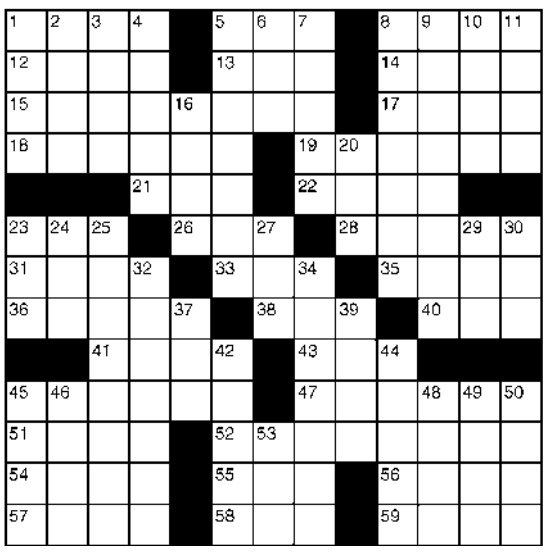
Yesterday's answer 10-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ciara, 38; Katy Perry, 39; Josh Henderson, 42; Persia White, 51.

Happy Birthday: Stop hesitating; make things happen. If you believe in yourself, you can negotiate, propose and control the outcome of anything you engage in and let your skills, experience and discipline kick in and take over. The opportunities are present, and you can bring about change if you are willing to put in the time and discipline. Don't sit on the sideline dreaming when progress is within reach. Your numbers are 5, 16, 23, 27, 35, 47, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take nothing for granted. Someone will make a force play if given the chance. Hold your cards close to your chest and be ready to go the distance. Speed is your defense, but endurance is necessary to make your mark. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Claim what's yours and keep marching. You will achieve happiness if you are diligent. Don't downplay your creativity or fear being different. Your uniqueness will capture the attention of those able to help you reach your goal. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Bide your time, work behind the scenes and be thorough. The prep work you do will not be in vain. Research will lead to something that helps you claim victory when the time is right. Don't trust others to live up to their promises. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You're in the driver's seat; don't hesitate to go after what you want. Use your imagination, be forceful in your demands and have a solid plan to carry you in a direction that serves you well. Networking and negotiations are favored. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take a moment and evaluate your situation. Be observant of how others react to changes, and consider how you can improve your life by accepting and using what's happening to your advantage. Don't lollygag when action is the road to victory. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23- Sept. 22):* Pay attention to how you present yourself to the world. An update or change that appeals to the sector you want to align with will build the confidence you require to reach your objective. Opportunity is present personally and professionally; act instinctively. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Listen carefully to gain insight into what others want from you. Consider what's doable without jeopardizing your position or reputation. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of you or put you in a precarious position. Concentrate on self-improvement, not buying someone's approval. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't take on what doesn't belong to you. Concentrate on your goal, and you'll make headway. Let go of your inhibitions and pursue what excites you. Don't procrastinate when progress will improve your life, status and confidence. Live life your way and prosper. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Pay attention to what others say and do, and weed out false claims before they escalate. Getting an honest account of what's possible will help you bench any interference. Don't give anyone the chance to rob you emotionally or financially. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take the initiative and do it yourself. Letting someone take care of your affairs will end up being costly. Adjust your lifestyle to cater to your needs and your budget. Speak from the heart and declare your true feelings and intentions. Self-improvement is favored. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Stop and consider your options. Don't let anyone make decisions for you. Lean toward minimalism and say no to temptation. Refuse to allow the changes others make lure you down the wrong path or cause you to say or do something you regret. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Follow your intuition, embrace change and stand to make gains above and beyond your expectations. Don't hesitate; look, see and do, and you'll find your happy place. Execute your plans, reveal a new look and prioritize love and romance. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, determined and expressive. You are compassionate and opportunity-driven.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			3		1	6		
						8	2	9
9	6		5				3	
7		9						8
2	8	4	9					3
1			4		2	7	9	
		8		6	4		7	
	7				9	3		
6	2						1	

Difficulty: ★★★ 10/25

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	9	2	7	6	4	8	5	3
8	7	6	2	5	3	4	9	1
3	4	5	9	1	8	2	6	7
2	6	3	8	4	7	5	1	9
5	1	4	6	2	9	3	7	8
7	8	9	1	3	5	6	2	4
9	3	7	5	8	6	1	4	2
6	2	8	4	7	1	9	3	5
4	5	1	3	9	2	7	8	6

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Difficulty: ★★ 10/24

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DVR OPTIONS FOR YOUR TV Solution: 9 letters

M	I	C	R	O	M	I	R	R	O	R	E	W	O	P
O	O	R	G	A	N	I	C	S	C	R	E	E	N	R
T	U	V	I	R	E	L	L	I	R	H	T	T	D	O
I	T	G	I	N	A	A	U	D	I	O	N	L	E	J
O	P	N	T	E	T	I	D	S	M	E	H	A	M	E
N	U	I	P	R	S	E	D	E	M	I	C	I	A	C
N	T	M	I	A	O	K	R	E	R	F	T	C	N	T
O	C	A	C	T	W	P	S	N	M	I	A	R	D	O
I	I	E	T	E	L	I	R	I	E	W	W	E	S	R
T	M	R	U	L	T	S	R	O	D	T	I	M	P	E
A	A	T	R	R	T	E	E	E	V	R	E	M	E	W
M	N	S	E	T	U	P	B	I	L	I	O	O	A	I
I	Y	V	O	L	U	M	E	U	R	E	D	C	K	N
N	D	I	S	P	L	A	Y	Ⓢ	Ⓣ	Ⓔ	Ⓢ	E	E	D
A	P	P	L	I	C	A	T	I	O	N	S	S	R	R

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Yesterday's Answer: Press

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García powers Rangers to 1st World Series since 2011 after rooting Rangers

HOUSTON (AP)—Adolis García and these road-happy Rangers are not only tops in Texas, they're best in the American League.

García homered twice and drove in five runs as the Texas Rangers reached their first World Series in 12 years with an 11-4 blowout of the Houston Astros in Game 7 of the AL Championship Series on Monday night.

Corey Seager got the Rangers started with a long homer in a three-run first inning. Nathaniel Lowe also went deep to give Texas—one of six major league teams without a World Series title—its first berth in the Fall Classic since consecutive trips in 2010 and 2011.

García homered for the fourth straight game and set a record for RBIs in a postseason series with 15. He had four hits, scored three times and was the obvious choice for ALCS MVP in a series that saw the road team win every game.

"He's a bad man, isn't he?" Seager said. "To be able to come into this atmosphere and get booed every at-bat and do what he did was really special. It was really fun to watch."

After winning their Lone Star State showdown with rival Houston, the resilient Rangers open an all-wild card World Series at home Friday night against Arizona or Philadelphia, who play the decisive Game 7 of their NLCS on Tuesday night.

Bruce Bochy, who came out of retirement this season to manage the Rangers, became the first skipper to win a League Championship Series with three different teams, after leading San Diego and San Francisco to NL pennants.

He and general manager Chris Young have spearheaded a swift turnaround with Texas, making its first playoff appearance since 2016 after losing 102 games in 2021 and going 68-94 last year.

"I didn't know if I'd get back in it. And here I am. I know how blessed I am," Bochy said. "We've had our streaks. We've had our injuries. They keep getting up. To come in here and beat such a great team like Houston—and congrats on their year. But it's great to be wearing the horns in Texas."

Meanwhile, the defending World Series champion Astros were finally dethroned.

Fittingly, it came at home, where they went 40-47 this year and 0-4 in this series. They won all three games at Texas and returned to Minute Maid Park a win shy of their third straight pennant, but Houston's pitching staff got pounded for 20 runs in the final two games of the team's seventh consecutive ALCS.

AP

The Texas Rangers celebrate after Game 7 of the baseball AL Championship Series against the Houston Astros Monday, Oct. 23, 2023, in Houston.

"That finished our season—not being able to win at home," said outfielder Chas McCormick, who sat stone-faced in the dugout long after the last out. "That came and bit us."

No club has repeated as World Series champion since the New York Yankees won three straight from 1998-2000.

"I don't like tipping my cap to anybody," Astros manager Dusty Baker said. "But when someone beats the hell out of you, what are you going to do?

"We have been spoiled around here as far as winning and winning and winning. And heck, I've been here four years, and we've been to two World Series and two Championship Series. We have nothing to be ashamed of or nothing to hold our head down about. We're down, but we're not out. And every team in baseball would trade to have had the last four years that we've had."

Texas led the AL West for most of the year, only to squander the division crown to Houston with a loss at Seattle on the final day of the regular season that sent the streaky Rangers on the road to begin the playoffs.

Turns out, that was no problem.

They have gone 8-0 away from home in these playoffs, joining the 1996 Yankees as the only teams to win their first eight road games in one postseason.

García, part of those clubs that lost nearly 200 games over the past two seasons, is savoring October success.

"More than anything, it's not even about beating the Astros or that particular opponent," he said through a translator. "It's how proud I feel about the journey we've been on and how we've been able to improve to get to this point right now where we're celebrating this victory."

Jordan Montgomery, normally a starter, came out of the bullpen on two days' rest and pitched 2 1/3 scoreless innings for the win. The big left-hander, acquired from St. Louis at the trade deadline, improved to 3-0 with a 2.16 ERA this postseason.

Texas starter Max Scherzer, acquired from the Mets in July, allowed four hits and two runs with two walks in 2 2/3 innings. But the Rangers took advantage of an early flop by Cristian Javier.

Texas jumped on Javier immediately and tagged him for three runs, highlighted by Seager's second-deck shot, before he was lifted with just one out in the first. The right-hander entered 4-0 with a 0.82 ERA in four career postseason starts.

Seager, in his second season with Texas after signing a $325 million, 10-year contract, had three hits after starting the series 5 for 26.

García slugged his sixth home run this postseason to make it 4-1 in the third before the Astros cut it to two on a solo homer by Alex Bregman in the bottom of the inning.

Texas broke things open with a four-run fourth that featured a two-run double by rookie Evan Carter and a two-run single by García.

After hitting a grand slam to punctuate a 9-2 win in Game 6, García led the charge Monday. He had 15 RBIs in the series to break the record set by Nelson Cruz with 13 for Texas in the 2011 ALCS.

The slugger was booed throughout the game for a second straight night after being at the center of a bench-clearing scuffle in Game 5 after being hit by a pitch from Astros reliever Bryan Abreu.

García seemed to delight in playing the road villain. When he opened the third inning with his shot to right field, he watched as the ball sailed over the fence before slowly taking a few steps toward first base. He then dropped his bat, turned around and skipped backward for a few feet while smiling broadly at his cheering dugout before trotting around the bases.

"When there's a lot of emotions, the fans out there, they are rallying for their team, it fuels me," García said. "It's motivation that helps me out when I'm playing."

The Cuban outfielder added a solo shot in the eighth to give him seven homers and 20 RBIs this postseason, passing Houston slugger Yordan Alvarez (six) for the most home runs in the playoffs this year.

García's home run streak is tied for fourth-longest in postseason history.

It was only the second time the road team won every game in a best-of-seven postseason series. The Astros were also on the wrong end of the other one, dropping four home games in a loss to Washington in the 2019 World Series, when Scherzer also pitched Game 7 in Houston for the Nationals.

Texas and Houston had identical regular-season records (90-72), with the AL West title going to the Astros on a head-to-head tiebreaker. Tied once again entering this game, the Rangers came out on top when it mattered most.

Texas' win guaranteed a third all-wild card World Series, the first since Bochy's Giants beat Kansas City in 2014.

Jose Altuve hit his 27th career postseason homer in the ninth for Houston, two behind Manny Ramirez for most all-time.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, PHILLIES 1

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Merrill Kelly retired Kyle Schwarber, Trea Turner and Bryce Harper in order in the fifth inning, striking out Schwarber and Harper—October's biggest home run threats.

When the pitcher reached the dugout, manager Torey Lovullo offered a handshake to signal the start was over after 90 pitches. Kelly appeared agitated and gestured with his glove as if to point out he struck out Schwarber and Harper and had much more in the tank.

"It kind of just, I think, took me by shock more than anything," Kelly said.

Here might be the real shock—especially in Philly. After losing the first two games of the NL Championship Series, the Arizona Diamondbacks are one win from their first World Series since 2001.

Tommy Pham and Lourdes Gurriel Jr. hit back-to-back homers and Kelly struck out eight before his early hook to help Arizona force Game 7 with a 5-1 win over the Philadelphia Phillies on Monday.

The winner of Tuesday night's game advances to the World Series against Texas, which beat Houston on Monday night for the AL pennant.

Kelly and four relievers combined to shut down the Phillies and stifle their rousing run of success at Citizens Bank Park. Arizona's bullpen didn't allow a runner to reach second.

"I'm expecting some fun," Kelly said. "Game 7, obviously, they talk about, it's the best words in sports. I think the fact that we're here, I don't think anybody thought we were going to take them to Game 6. I don't think anybody thought we were even going to make it to Game 1. I don't think anybody thought we were going to make it past Milwaukee, to be honest with you."

Arizona backed up the bold pregame words from Lovullo and tamed Phillies bats and the hostile home crowd of 45.473.

"Getting there is really important, so we have that all-in mentality," Lovullo said ahead of Game 6. "We didn't come cross-country to get our asses kicked. We came here to play our best baseball game, and our guys will be ready to go."

Kelly allowed one run and three hits and three walks.

"He was making statements to me that told me that he was capable of going back out there," Lovullo said. "But I've got to be the parent in the room and make a tough decision and hand it over to the bullpen that's been very, very efficient."

Sure enough, Arizona's bullpen allowed three hits over four scoreless innings.

Schwarber, Turner and Harper, the top three hitters in Philadelphia's batting order, went 0 for 9 with four strikeouts. Nick Castellanos was 0 for 4, dropping to 1 for 20 in the series.

Philadelphia lost at home for the first time in seven home postseason games. The Phillies dropped Games 4 and 5 to Houston in the World Series but had won 11 straight postseason home games against NL opposition.

Pham said Arizona gave notice the team is as resilient as any that played this postseason.

"We always felt like if we got some good pitching, played great defense, and we played our game, that we could win this," he said.

The Phillies sent Aaron Nola to the mound -- a year to the day after they beat San Diego to win the NL pennant -- in hopes of making it two straight trips to the World Series.

Nola was lights out in every postseason start, pitching against the backdrop that the pending free agent could be down to his final games with the Phillies. He was 3-0 with a 0.96 ERA in October.

Make it 3-1.

Nola allowed homers to Pham and Gurriel in almost the same spots in the left field seats, the first ones the longest-tenured Phillies player allowed all postseason.

Cousins, Addison lead Vikings to 22-17 win over 49ers

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Kirk Cousins let the ball fly for Jordan Addison earlier than he wanted to in the face of an all-out San Francisco blitz in the closing seconds of the second quarter for Minnesota, bracing for the worst after realizing the pass was underthrown.

Addison won the tug-of-war battle this time with 49ers cornerback Charvarius Ward and spun away for a 60-yard touchdown, and the Vikings finally pulled out a victory after three straight late lapses at home.

"I thought it was getting picked," Cousins said. "I still don't know how Jordan came away with it."

Cousins connected with Addison for two first-half scores, Camryn Bynum intercepted Brock Purdy twice in the fourth quarter, and the Vikings held on to beat the 49ers 22-17 on Monday night.

"One play here, one play there. We've had some tough losses," said Cousins, who went 35 for 45 for 378 yards and no sacks. "Last year we were fortunate enough to pull them out. We found a way tonight."

Christian McCaffrey scored twice for the 49ers (5-2), who have a two-game losing streak for just the second time in two years.

"We came in with the right mindset," said Purdy, who went 21 for 30 for 272 yards. "We've just got to execute better."

Addison, stepping up in a big way with superstar wide receiver Justin Jefferson sidelined by a hamstring injury, had seven catches for 123 yards in his breakout performance on a prime-time stage.

The play of the game came with on third-and-6 with 16 seconds left before halftime when the 49ers sent three extra rushers. The fight for the ball with Ward was eerily similar to the opening drive of the game, when Cousins threw to Addison over the middle where it was wrestled away by Ward to hang the Vikings with their fourth opening-drive turnover in seven games.

"I needed that one," Addison said. "I couldn't let him get it twice."

The first-round draft pick from USC, who left the game briefly with leg cramps, also had a 14-yard reception on third-and-4 on a drive that could have sealed the game for Minnesota (3-4).

But Greg Joseph, who also missed an earlier extra point, pulled a 50-yard field goal wide right.

AP

Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Jordan Addison (3) breaks a tackle by San Francisco 49ers cornerback Charvarius Ward (7) during a 60-yard touchdown reception in the first half of an NFL football game, Monday, Oct. 23, 2023, in Minneapolis.

With no timeouts and 1:11 left, the 49ers took possession at their 40. Purdy, who was picked off with 5:30 remaining at the Minnesota 30 after an off-target pass intended for Jajuan Jennings, completed two short throws to reach the Minnesota 40. But Bynum zeroed in on a pass over the middle for Ray-Ray McCloud III and leaped in front of him for the interception.

"Obviously, our season isn't going as well as we would like it to, but nothing's better than bouncing back from adversity and stacking wins up," Bynum said.

The 49ers, who were still the favorite to win the Super Bowl after a 19-17 defeat last week at Cleveland, played without wide receiver Deebo Samuel and left tackle Trent Williams, both of whom were hurt in that ugly game. Purdy bounced back from the worst game of his young NFL career and his first regular season loss as a starter, but those late interceptions will sting.

Minnesota's defense also avenged that mistake. McCaffrey lost the ball at the Minnesota 11 on the ensuing possession when Bynum and Harrison Smith converged on the NFL's leading rusher. Smith was credited for the forced fumble, his third of the season to tie a career high, and Dean Lowry recovered.

"I made a bad mistake today that I believe cost us the game," McCaffrey said.

That was the first time in seven games this season the 49ers failed to score on their first drive to portend their mistake-filled game. Addison's first touchdown, a perfectly placed 20-yard pass into the hole in the zone coverage after Cousins audibled, was the first allowed by the 49ers in the first quarter this season.

"Against that team, that's big-time quarterback play in my mind," coach Kevin O'Connell said.

OFF TARGET

Jake Moody, who missed a 41-yard field goal try in the closing seconds that would've won it at Cleveland, pulled a 40-yard attempt wide right in the second quarter. He later converted from 55 yards.

MONDAY NIGHT MILESTONES

McCaffrey, the only player in the league with a touchdown in every game this season, has a scoring streak of 16 straight games including the 2022-23 playoffs. He's one game short of Lenny Moore's all-time record from 1963-64.

Cousins hit the 300-yard mark for the 50th time in his 12-year career. Only four others have done that by their 12th season: Drew Brees (67), Matt Ryan (64), Peyton Manning (56) and Kurt Warner (52).

NFL warns teams that fighting won't be tolerated and penalties will strictly enforced

The NFL has warned teams that any fights could result in significant punishment, including disqualification.

In a memo sent to clubs on Wednesday and obtained by The Associated Press, the league said "fighting is never acceptable" and it plans to "strongly enforce" its game-day policies.

Penalties include disqualification, significant fines and/or suspension without pay.

The league is cracking down on fighting after pregame fights marred two games last week — the 49ers-Browns and Cowboys-Chargers.

No players were disciplined for their actions pregame last week.

The memo also emphasized three key points: Teams must warm up within their own 45-yard line, players or club personnel can be disqualified for actions that happen pregame and video will be used to determine if pregame actions warrant discipline after the fact.

"Sportsmanship and respect are at the core of NFL football, and fighting is irreconcilable with these values," the league said in the memo. ***(AP)***

NFL suspends Broncos safety Kareem Jackson for four games after latest illegal hit

DENVER (AP)—The NFL on Monday suspended Denver Broncos safety Kareem Jackson for four games without pay following his latest illegal hit to the head that resulted in his second ejection of the season.

Jackson, who faces about $589,000 in lost wages, was flagged for unnecessary roughness and ejected for a high hit to Green Bay Packers tight end Luke Musgrave in the fourth quarter of Denver's 19-17 victory Sunday.

That came just 24 hours after the league announced Jackson had been fined $43,709 for an unflagged hit on Chiefs running back Isiah Pacheco in Denver's Week 6 loss at Kansas City.

That brought his season total to $89,670 in fines and he's facing yet another one for his hit on Musgrave.

Jackson was fined in each of the first three games of the season for unnecessary roughness for a total of $45,961.

Jon Runyan, the NFL's vice president of football operations, issued the suspension Monday for violations of the league's unnecessary roughness rules.

In a letter to Jackson, Runyan wrote, "you delivered a forceful blow to the head/neck area of a defenseless receiver, when you had the time and space to avoid such contact. You could have made contact with your opponent within the rules, yet you chose not to."

Runyan noted Jackson's multiple offenses for personal fouls this season for violating player safety-related rules.

Jackson also was ejected from Denver's 35-33 loss to Washington in Week 2 after he was flagged for an illegal hit on Commanders tight end Logan Thomas, which came a week after Jackson's illegal hit on Raiders receiver Jakobi Meyers. Both Meyers and Thomas were concussed on the plays.

Jackson, who signed a one-year, $2.515 million contract with the Broncos last spring to return for a 14th NFL season, lost his starting job to Caden Sterns in training camp. But Sterns suffered a knee injury on his second snap in the opener, and Jackson returned to the starting lineup.

PJ Locke, who replaced Jackson following the safety's disqualification, secured Denver's win over the Packers with a late interception, the first of his career.

Jackson will miss games against Kansas City, Buffalo, Minnesota and Cleveland before he's allowed to return to the team on Nov. 27 ahead of the Broncos' Week 13 game at Houston.

Before the suspension was announced, Broncos coach Sean Payton reiterated that he didn't believe Jackson was playing dirty or trying to hurt opponents.

He said he's sat on the NFL's competition committee for a number of years and "we're constantly trying to work with and educate the players. There are times when pad levels drop. I know Kareem, I know his heart and I know the way he's played. I think it's an easy narrative to say, 'Well he's just an old-timer playing in a new-timer's game.'

"When you see the play, his head is removed from the forceable contact. Defenseless is a little bit more of an issue relative to the position the receiver's in," Payton added.

"I just know where he's at as a player. We'll keep working on that. I know he'll keep working on it. He's someone that's smart and really wants to do the right thing."

The Broncos (2-5) host the Chiefs (6-1) Sunday.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Final 4 set for Eagles caging master's division

The Final Four is finally set for the master's division in the dragged-out Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023.

A Plus Team-Saipan Marine Corp., Blue Haus, Legends, and JSN have all earned their dues after they came out unscathed in the playoffs held last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, Legends team, right, and Blue Haus team pose for the opening jump ball of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Legends blacked out Vizion's dreams of making it all the way as they defeated them, 83-58, on Monday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

After a close 13-10 lead by Legends after first quarter, Vizion lost sight of the winning path as their offense was shut down by a more rough-and-tumble Legends crew.

It was still pretty close by the end of the second quarter, 38-26, but by the end of the third, Legends enjoyed a 26-point lead, thanks to James Villacrusis' pinpoint accuracy and James Abuy's assists.

Vizion trailed and tried to force fouls, while rushing fastbreak plays under the net, but Legends were made that night as Villacrusis put 24, Abuy made 18, and Jorge De Guzman had 16 markers.

Vizion's Ariel Baul and Jojit Jumaquio were the only players in double digits with 12 points apiece.

Last Saturday, JSN made light work of New San Antonio Market-Lakay, 88-58, in another blowout game.

JSN never really lost traction throughout the game, as they came speeding down the court at break-neck speed from the opening jump ball. Cecilio Bisana cleaned house early to lead JSN, 23-13, at the end of the first quarter.

It was Jun Tabora and Ben Pelisamen's turn in the second and third quarter as they made baskets at every open opportunity. Their defense held strong as well and Tabora and Pelisamen buried Lakay under a 20-point deficit heading into the second half.

Lakay could not slow JSN's momentum as they tried to tackle their shots from outside the perimeter. Despite a 14-point effort by John Jugos, J.R. Torres' 11 markers, and Julius Domine's 10 points, Lakay came up way short and lost by a staggering 30 points.

Legends 83 – Villacrusis 24, Abuy 18, De Guzman 16, Binuya 8, Tibayan 7, Fitial 4, Lizama 2, De Jesus 2, Zapata 2.

Vizion 58 – Baul 12, Jumaquio 12, Catalla 9, Sedillo 7, Galvez 6, Tenorio 5, Pablo 3, Sangoyo 2, Capuyan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-10, 38-26, 62-42, 83-58.

JSN 88 – Pelisamen 24, Tabora 19, Bisana 15, Berline 12, Manabat 4, Joyner 4, Umali 2.

New San Antonio Market-Lakay 58 – Jugos 14, Torres 11, Domine 10, Isip 8, Saplan 6, Camacho 6, Culansag 2, Borja 1.

Scoring by quarters: 21-13, 46-26, 72-46, 88-58.

CNMI

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Taflinger from Saipan International School; and Takeru Jim, Rex Pixley, Pony Tang, Michael Miller, and Jian Chun from Marianas High School. Coaches Dr. Ron Snyder and Angela Taflinger accompanied the team.

Synder said of the competition, it "was fierce and the courses difficult but the team performed admirably… The relay course was up a long incline, dropping swiftly back to sea level and then on the beach where the runners had to cycle between loose sand and even short distances into the ocean. After the first loop, the sand is loosened by the hundreds of runners and that means the boys' second loop and both loops for the girls were even tougher!"

"Overall, the team's performance was great," said Snyder. "We had some amazing times and placed very well. I think we are positioned well to take home another trophy or two next year."

He said the 2024 Asia Pacific Invitational Cross Country Championships will take place in the third weekend of October in Chiba, Japan, just outside of Tokyo. "That is where we took home the team trophy last year and I have a very good feeling about repeating that performance," he said.

Snyder then thanked the athletes "for being so tough and flexible during the races and our free time, the organizers from Guam, especially Jay Antonio, the Cross Country team from JFK for making our students feel welcome during the course preview and to Melisha San Nicolas, Werlly Breakenridge, and the team at the Federal Programs Office for their extra work that they did to process the travel authorization. Without their help in securing a funding source, we would not have been able to bring students from six of the high schools in the CNMI."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI girls 5K cross country team at the starting line of the Asia Pacific Cross Country Championships held last Friday and Saturday in Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI boys 5K cross country team at the starting line of the Asia Pacific Cross Country Championships held last Friday and Saturday in Guam.

WSR

From page 20

Center in Koblerville.

GES couldn't find the net until the 39th minute from a goal by Jacob Bojra, but by then, WSR had already scored their two goals. Salman Kamal scored both goals to punch the Kingfishers' ticket to the finals.

The Umangs, on the other hand, overpowered San Vicente Elementary School 2, 8-0.

KobES had everything going right for them as their defensive plays and offense were top notch. Unmatched in the first half, Dean Aldan scored a goal, while Alexander Aveira scored two for a 3-0 lead.

The Canaries have yet to take off in the game and could not find gaps in the Umangs' plays. Before they could even think about getting on the board, the Umangs' Uwi Castro made it 4-0 in the 21st minute.

Castro's cleats found some rubber again 10 minutes later for a 5-0 lead. Immediately after, Liam Palacios gained possession and made it 6-0. Castro then completed the hattrick in the 34th minute and the last goal was made by Aldan five minutes later.

Today, the third place match between GES and SVES 2 is set for 4pm followed by the championship game at 5:30pm.

SPC

From page 20

V6 500m team who clocked in at 3:06.50; and the open men's long distance 10-mile team with a time of 1:38:01.84.

Teammates for the 2022 Saipan Southern High School boys va'a championship team, Andrew and Aldan have been paddling together for some time now. In this Micro Cup, they raced together in the junior categories and in all the open men V6 races except for the mixed races. For the number of races and medals they earned in the competition, Andrew and Aldan were recognized with the Top Junior Paddler awards.

On how Aldan felt about winning the Top Junior Paddler award, he said he was surprised because he didn't know there would be an award, "but having gotten it, I wanted to show other juniors that taking the time into doing something you are passionate about will take you to great places."

Andrew, for his part, said he feels really good about it. "It was amazing for Guam to recognize the junior paddlers knowing that there are barely any junior paddlers in our community."

Getting the award and winning gold in the junior category did not come easy, as SPC coach and president, Justin Andrew—who is also Tyler's father—said, "originally, the schedule was for the junior paddlers to compete on Friday, and last-minute changes were made and the junior paddlers races were moved to Saturday and this worried me a lot because SPC planned to enter its junior paddlers into the open categories."

So, on Saturday, their junior paddlers raced back-to-back—out from one race and into another race. "Thankfully, race organizers allowed three to five minutes for a little break—we survived by drinking tons of mixed Gatorade and staying away from the sun's heat and resting as much when there was a chance. We also had to learn quickly to race on a slightly different model of canoe—the water depth was a bit shallow but we still managed to put on an impressive performance," said the elder Andrew.

"Me and my boys did back-to-back races, so it was amazing for us to medal considering how tired we were after each race," said Tyler.

Aldan then thanked coach Andrew, "who of course taught me all that I know, who brought me to the micro cup, and who always supported many of the junior paddlers. I believe that the sport will only grow through the inclusion of the younger generations, and he is an amazing example of keeping the culture as well as the tradition of paddling alive in the Marianas. I would also like to thank Mr. Joseph Weaver, who introduced me to the sport through the high-school teams and who also came to the Micro Cup."

For Tyler's part, he said "the struggles I had in this competition were racing in a new beach and keeping my composure during a race. Although I was used to racing in deeper waters, Guam's shallow waters made it a bit of a struggle to adjust to. Keeping my composure was somewhat difficult because I felt my adrenaline kicking in and I didn't want to let my technique go out of whack."

He then thanked his coach and board members of his team for making the trip possible. "If it weren't for them, my team wouldn't be able to go out and shine in our races. I'd also like to thank the Guam outrigger community for making us feel welcomed, giving us amazing competition, and recognizing junior paddlers."

As for the upcoming Pacific Games, Tyler said he feels nervous. "My team is a bunch of young boys and girls, but we are not racing in any Micro Cup. We're now facing top competition, rules, and top teams all over Oceania. I expect to have a good time, get the feeling of racing in a huge competition, and learn from other paddlers outside of Micronesia."

Aldan said that unfortunately, he isn't competing in the Pacific Games.

For coach Andrew, he said that overall, the competition was great.

"It's one of the best performances we had. Majority of our paddlers are juniors and we wished there were more junior Guam paddlers competing in all categories so we can really test our SPC junior paddlers, but overall, I am very happy with our outcome."

As for the team's performance, Andrew said "The overall performance from the SPC paddlers—they raced their hearts out and showcased amazing talent, hard work and sportsmanship—I would say that the camaraderie among all paddlers was great….it was like a huge family gathering of outrigger paddlers who just wanted to have fun and show and share with each other their paddling skills."

"Huge thank you to our many friends, families, and the community organizations for their generous support—Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, IT&E, Carquest Autoparts, H.S. Lee, Eric and Pamela Rengiil, Rep. Thomas Manglona, Rep. Blas Jonathan Attao, Sandy Weaver, Anthony Macaranas, Donnie and Sharon Milatante, Jenisha's grandma Ms. Mako Torres, Eileen Fleming, and Cindy Castro and many more who are not named here that generously helped our team make it to Guam for the 2023 Micronesia Cup annual outrigger paddling race," said Andrew.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Paddling Club's junior paddlers—17-year-olds Phillip Aldan, left, and Tyler Andrew—were recognized as the Top Junior Paddlers of the 23rd Annual Micronesia Cup Canoe Race in Guam last weekend.

García powers Rangers to 1st World Series since 2011 after rooting Rangers.

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Sports

Final 4 set for Eagles caging master's division.

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CNMI 5th overall in Asia-Pacific champs

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI cross country team made up of 14 elite high school runners came in fifth place overall amongst nine other teams in the Asia Pacific Cross Country Championships held last Friday and Saturday in Guam.

In the boys 5K course, CNMI placed fourth, while the girls placed eighth.

First place in the 5K course was Guam High School with five points; second was St. Mary's International School with six points; third was John F. Kennedy High School, Guam with nine points; and fourth was Yongsan International School, South Korea with 11.

In the relay portion when boys and girls raced together in 2.5K segments along Ypao Beach, they also placed fifth after their five teams of pairs came in sixth place, 27th place, 36th place, 48th place, and 52nd place. First place was GHS, IHSS/SMIS came in second, and YIS third.

With the CNMI's fourth place finish in the boys 5K, the eighth place finish for the girls in the 5K, and the fifth place finish in the relay, they had a total score of 17 for fifth place overall.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 14-member CNMI high school cross country team poses for a group photo during the awards ceremony after the Asia Pacific Cross Country Championships held last Friday and Saturday in Guam.

The CNMI team consisted of Victor Nash Santos from Mount Carmel School; Pia Ngewakl from Kagman High School; Jireh Wang and Samuel Zhu from Agape Christian School; Deseha Mendiola and Summer Manahane from Saipan Southern High School; Serin Chung, Kaithlyn Chavez, and Landen

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Group photo of all the relay teams after the race in the Asia Pacific Cross Country Championships held last Friday and Saturday in Guam.

SPC bags 6 medals; Andrew, Aldan are top junior paddlers honors

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It was a survival of the mentally fittest for Saipan Paddling Club's members as they battled rescheduling, the heat, and unfamiliar waters during the 23rd Annual Micronesia Cup Canoe Race off the waters of Matapang Beach, Guam last weekend.

Despite the last-minute changes to their junior paddlers' schedules, SPC bagged three gold, one silver, and two bronze medals, while their junior boys paddlers—17-year-olds Tyler Andrew and Phillip Aldan—received the Top Junior Paddler awards.

Andrew and Aldan gave SPC two gold medals after topping both the junior boys 500m sprints with a time of 2:44 and the junior boys 1,000m with a time of 6:14.28.

SPC's third gold medal was paddled in by their open men V6 1,000m team with a time of 5:39.30.

Their lone silver medal was in the open women V6 1,000m with at time of 6:37.70; and their bronze medals washed ashore by their open women

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Paddling Club's team, including coach/athlete Joseph Weaver, back far left, poses for a group photo during the 23rd Annual Micronesia Cup Canoe Race off the waters of Matapang Beach, Guam last weekend.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Paddling Club's team, including coach/athlete Justin Andrew, seated far right, shows off their hardware during the awards ceremony of the 23rd Annual Micronesia Cup Canoe Race in Guam last weekend.

WSR, KobES to duke it out in soccer finals

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's a battle of the southside as William S. Reyes Elementary School Kingfishers and Koblerville Elementary School Umangs have made it to the finals of the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Elementary School Soccer League 2023-2024.

WSR, made up of some of its players from the 2022 championship team, slipped past a strong Garapan Elementary School squad, 2-1, on Monday at the NMI Soccer Training

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, a William S. Reyes Elementary School soccer player, left, tracks the ball as a Koblerville Elementary School player trails behind during a game in the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Elementary School Soccer League 2023-2024 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.